

Window to the European Union



Guidebook about Germany, Poland, Iceland and Turkey



With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



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The content is collected by the participating students.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Germany	6
Frankfurt	8
German school system	11
The Hans-Böckler-School	15
Sightseeing spots and spots visited	19
Daytrip to Rudesheim	19
Limburg	21
National and religious holidays	23
Legal ages and social life of young people in Germany	33
Iceland	39
Reykjavík	41
The Icelandic School System	43
Tækniskólinn	44
Sightseeing spots in Iceland	46
The Icelandic Golden Circle	46
Gullfoss	46
Geysir	48
Þingvellir	50
Silfra Fissure	52
Hafnarfjörður	52
National and religious holidays in Iceland	54
Easter	54
First day of summer	54
Icelandic National Day (17 June)	54
Labour Day	55
Commerce day	55
Christmas	55
New Year's	55
Social life and legal ages	56
Poland	58
Warsaw	60
Lubliniec	66
Sightseeing spots in Poland	69
Auschwitz	69
Cracow	73

Wieliczka Salt Mine	76
Holidays in Poland	80
Epiphany	80
Easter	80
Constitution Day	81
All Saints' Day	81
National Independence Day	82
Christmas	82
THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN POLAND	83
Legal ages	85
BIBLIOGRAPHY:.....	87
Turkey.....	88
Marmara Region.....	90
Aegean Region.....	90
Meditarranean Region	91
The Central Anatolia Region.....	92
Agriculture in Turkey	94
Tourism.....	95
MANİSA	97
House of Virgin Mary.....	101
Foça	101
EDUCATION SYSTEM IN TURKEY.....	102
TYPES OF SCHOOL.....	102
TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOL	104
MANİSA VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL.....	107
Physical Structure of the School.....	108
SCHOOL FACILITIES	109
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN TURKEY.....	110
23rd April Sovereignty and Children's Day	110
19th May Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day.....	110
30th August Victory Day	111
29th October Republic Day	112
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS IN TURKEY	113
RAMADAN FEAST.....	113
SACRIFICE FEAST.....	114
Social Life.....	115

Legal Age for Young People in Turkey	116
Photos from the students stay in Poland	119
Photos from the students stay in Germany	126
Photos from the students stay in Iceland.....	134
Photos from the teachers meeting in Turkey.....	141

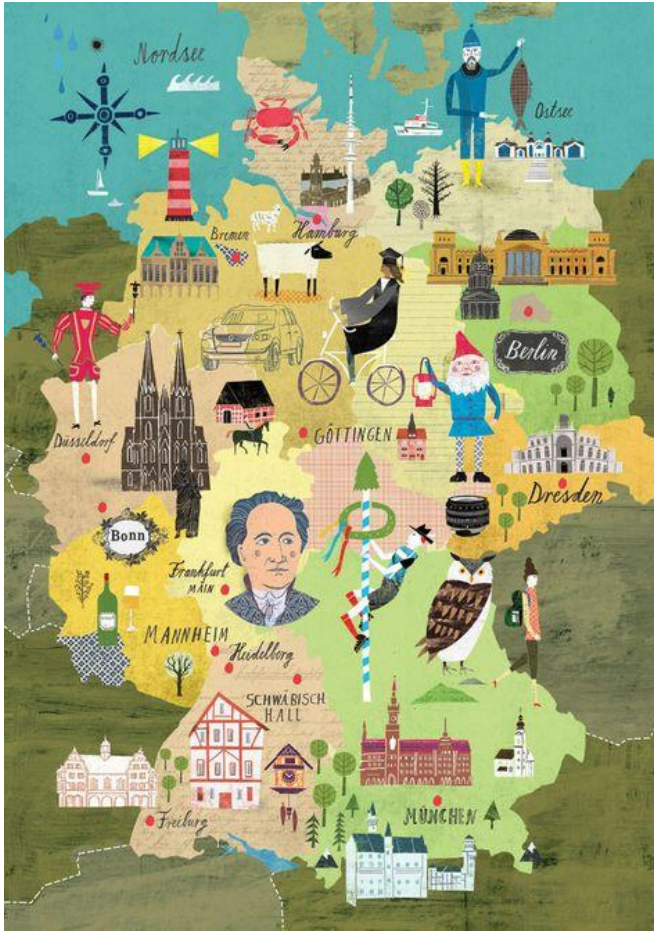
GERMANY

Germany is a federal republic since 1949 and is located in central Europe. Angela Merkel is the Chancellor right now. Germany covers an area of 357,022 square kilometres. It is 876 kilometres from its northernmost tip to the southernmost point as the crow flies, and 640 kilometres from east to west.

The capital Berlin is also Germany's largest city, with a population of about 3.4 million. Other cities with more than one million residents are Hamburg (1.8 million) and Munich (1.5 million) and Cologne (slightly over 1 million) Frankfurt am Main (pop. 750.000) is the centre of international finance and the biggest hub for travelling around. Germany has the largest population of any European country, around 82 million – a density of 230 people per square kilometre.



Frankfurt is the most international city in Germany! With a population of about 750.000 people it is the fifth biggest city in Germany and the biggest in the federal state of Hesse. Furthermore it is the largest financial centre on the continent and the airport is one of the largest one in Europe. Additionally it is the historical city of coronations, the city of Goethe, the football club Eintracht Frankfurt, the Frankfurt School as well as *Ebbelwoi* und *Handkäs mit Musik...* In brief, to the smallest metropolis in the world, in which there is a lot to discover at close hand.



Almost one in three of the people living in Frankfurt do not hold a German passport. No matter where visitors come from, they will always meet people in Frankfurt who speak their language and a restaurant that serves their favourite food. The open and hospitable atmosphere in Frankfurt stems from its centuries-old role as a trading centre – the stock exchange is the biggest one in Germany, there are a lot of trading fairs and as above mentioned – it is a very important centre for the financial sector. This liberal and democratic tradition of the city may be one reason for the fact that people from very diverse cultures have lived here in peace with one another for a long time. They have all contributed to making this city shine slightly differently from every angle, like a jewel shines slightly differently when you look at it from different sides. The river Main divides the city into half. The “new old town” is surrounded by many skyscrapers that define the cityscape.

GERMANY

- Germany consists of 16 federal states
- It's a liberal, federal parliamentary republic
- Our federal city is Berlin
- Population: about 80 million people
- Currency: Euro
- Chancellor: Angela Merkel



- After the USA, Germany is the second-most popular migration destination in the world
 - 6,3 million people with migration background, most of them from Turkey
- We are one of six founder members of the EU
- Seal of quality: made in Germany
- Our most important holiday is the 3rd October
 - Germany Unity Day

FRANKFURT

Frankfurt is the biggest city in the federal state of Hesse

It is also the 5th biggest city in Germany with a population of 750.000 inhabitants

Here you can see the skyline of Frankfurt. It is the biggest financial centre in continental Europe

FRANKFURT AM MAIN

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCE



European Central Bank

since 1998 the City of the Euro



many national and international banks are located in Frankfurt



SIGHTS

Stock exchange



Old opera



House where "Goethe" was born



Central place "Römerberg"

The most beautiful districts



Kaiserplace

Berger Street



Bockenheimer Wart



Bethmann Park Northend



Bockenheimer Street

DRINK AND FOOD



Cider

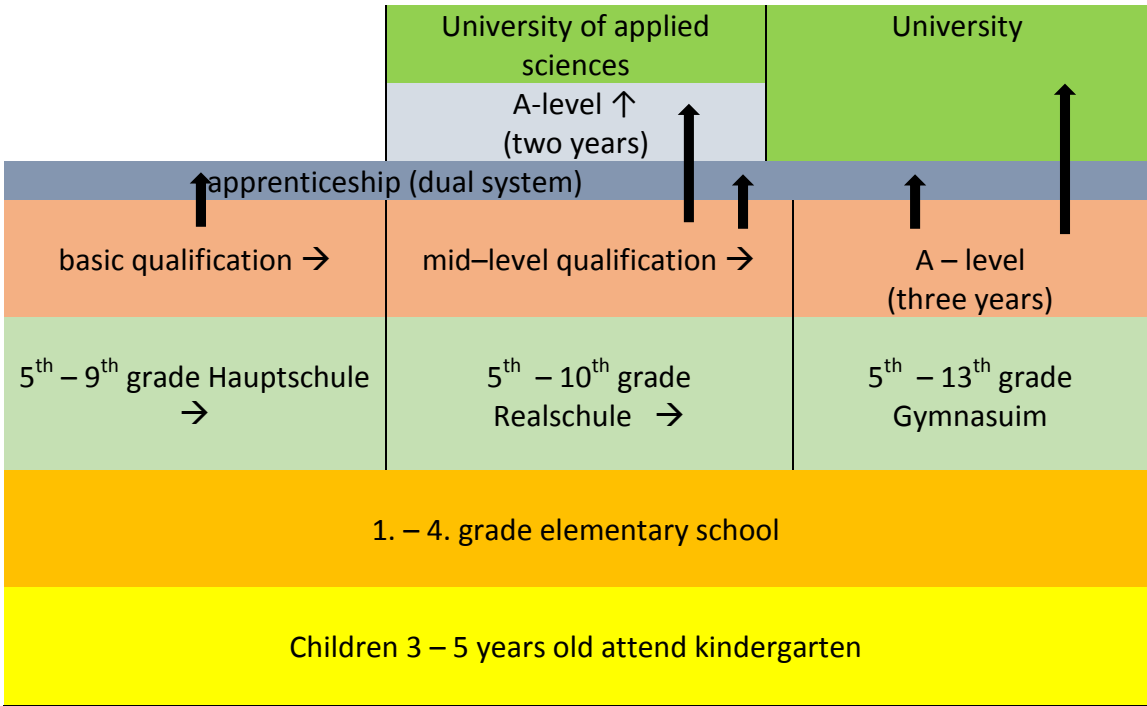


Frankfurt Green Sauce

GERMAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

Our **school system** from kindergarten to university:

There are three types of high school:



At the age of three to five you go to kindergarten first. After that you start with elementary school at the age of six, which lasts from 1st to 4th grade.

After elementary school you either go to Hauptschule, mid-level school or to a gymnasium. After Hauptschule you either have a basic qualification or a qualified basic qualification. After that, you have the opportunity to start an apprenticeship or catch up with the mid-level qualification. After the mid-level you have the mid-level qualification. With the mid-level qualification you either start an apprenticeship or the two-year or three-year A-Level.

After finishing A-Level you can also start an apprenticeship. But you can also go to university or university of applied sciences. If you complete university you will get a Bachelor’s degree.

For the grading teachers use the grades from 1 -6. If you do not have the appropriate grades for more moving on (e.g. the eleventh grade) you have to repeat a grade (a school year).

Some of our students are currently in training according to the German **“Dual System”**. That means they get hands-on experience at a training company (the practical part) and also attend at the Hans-Böckler-School (the theoretical part).

The students are in the vocational school two days a week. The duration of the vocational training is generally three years and ends with a final examination before the respective authority (e.g. the bar association for legal secretaries).

Within the dual system, students at our school are trained to work in one of the following six professions:

- legal clerk
- legal secretary
- tax clerk
- administrative assistant
- real estate clerk



Questions about the handout:

German school system

- 1) At what age do children come to kindergarten?
- 2) In which school do children come after elementary school?
- 3) When do you have the opportunity to do an apprenticeship in the Dual System?
- 4) Is it possible to start A-level after finishing basic qualification?
- 5) Which grades are covered by the German elementary school?
- 6) Is it possible to start university after finishing A-level (two years)?
- 7) Can you get the grade 8 for a class test?
- 8) Can you repeat the grade 10?
- 9) For which profession does the Hans-Böckler-Schule offer lessons (as the theoretical part of an apprenticeship)?

Answers sheet:

Questions about the handout:

German school system

- 1) With age of three.
- 2) Hauptschule, Realschule or Gymnasium
- 3) After basic,- Mid-Level qualification and A-Level
- 4) No, it's not. You need a mid-level qualification.
- 5) Grade 1 – 4.
- 6) Yes, but only at a University of Applied Sciences
- 7) No, you can't get the grade 8 for a class test.
- 8) Yes, if you do not have the appropriate grades for the eleventh grade you have to repeat the school year.
- 9) The Hans-Böckler-School offers lessons for:
 - legal clerks
 - legal secretaries
 - tax clerks
 - administrative assistants
 - real estate clerks

The Hans-Böckler-School



The **Hans-Böckler-School** is in Frankfurt am Main. It is a vocational school with more than 1,400 students and about 50 teachers.

The Dual System:

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The students are in the vocational school two days a week. The duration of the vocational training is generally three years and ends with a final examination before the respective authority (e.g. the *bar association* for legal secretaries).

Within the dual system, students at our school are trained to work in one of the following professions:

- legal clerk
- legal secretary
- tax clerk
- administrative assistant
- real estate clerk



Professions in the Dual System

Legal Clerk (Justizfachangestellte/r):

- The job of a legal clerk is to perform office and administrative duties in courts, law offices and public prosecutor’s offices.
- For this training program you need a secondary school diploma.
- The duration of training is 3 years.

- There is a midterm exam in the middle of the second year to determine the students' level.
- After graduation students can work in courts, for prosecutors and at law offices.

Real Estate Agent (Immobilienkaufmann/frau):

- The real estate industry includes producing, selling and buying real estate.
- The real estate agents work in all the areas of the real estate economy including apartment companies, housing associations, building contractors and project developers.
- The training usually takes 3 years but can be shortened under certain conditions.
- For this training program you need a secondary school diploma.
- There is a midterm exam in the middle of the second year to determine the students' level.

Patent Assistant/ Patent Law Clerk (Patentanwaltsfachangestellte/r):

- Patent law clerks assist a patent attorney. Their daily work consists of administrative tasks, creating cost notes, writing letters and file management. The client support is part of their daily work, too.
- This kind of job requires communication skills, independent and team work and organizational talent.
- The training usually lasts 3 years.
- Expected entry qualifications:
 - ✓ Applicants should have at least a good secondary school diploma.
 - ✓ Good knowledge of German (written and oral).
 - ✓ Knowledge of mathematics.

Legal Secretary (Rechtsanwaltsfachangestellte/r):

- A legal secretary's job is the organization of daily office work in a law firm. E.g. file management, writing letters, creating cost notes and client support.
- Working in a law firm requires communications skills, independent and team work and organization skills.
- The applicants should at least have a secondary school diploma and a good knowledge of German (written and oral).
- The training usually lasts 3 years.
- In the middle of the second year there is a midterm exam to determine the students' level.

Assistant Tax Consultant / Tax Clerk (Steuerfachangestellte/r):

- An assistant tax consultant works for the tax accountant.
- They mostly do financial accounting for self-employed people, small companies or private persons.
- They also process tax declarations.
- For this training program a good secondary school diploma is required.
- Good math skills are very important.
- The training period is 3 years.
- After 1 ½ years students must take a midterm exam.
- After graduation a student can take further courses to become an accountant.

Clerk in Public Administration (Verwaltungsfachangestellte/r)

- A clerk in public administration works in public establishments.
- They are the contact partner for citizen matters.
- For this training program one needs a high school degree.
- Graduates of this program often work for city government.

Full-time programs:

Besides the professions in the dual system, we also have the following full-time programs in the Hans-Böckler-School.

PuSch / BzB

Praxis und Schule – PuSchB/ BzB - the goal in this class is to prepare students for their working life. The program lasts one year.

If you want to be part of this kind of class, you need to know German well enough to pass your exam for the first high school diploma (first level).

Berufsfachschule

Berufsfachschule (BFS) is a full-time school form at the Hans-Böckler-School; it takes two years to finish this kind of schooling. At the end, students get a high school diploma (intermediate/second level).

At the Hans-Böckler-School, the lessons focus on economy and management. Beside ordinary school subjects (such as German, English and Mathematics) there are commercial subjects which are divided into different fields.

After finishing this kind of program students are able to continue with schooling, or they can apply for an internship.

InteA

InteA – This form of schooling is for students who recently immigrated to Germany and need to learn German as fast as possible.

In this kind of class students are taught the German language, German culture and information about life in Germany.

How you can find us...

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Fax: 0049 69 212-40530

E-Mail: poststelle.hans-boeckler-schule@stadt-frankfurt.de

SIGHTSEEING SPOTS AND SPOTS VISITED

Sights in Frankfurt we have visited

Our first stop was the Main Tower (see picture right). The Main Tower is one of the top attractions in Frankfurt. The Main Tower is a very special sight of Frankfurt, which attracts thousands of visitors every year. It offers a breathtaking view over Frankfurt's skyline. Our next stop was the Römer. Since 1405, the Römer is the town hall of Frankfurt. On the Römerberg are lots of souvenir shops, where you can buy a souvenir to remember your trip to Frankfurt. Our last stop was the Mainufer. The Mainufer is also one of the top attractions in Frankfurt. On the Ufer, you can take a walk, jog or ride your bike. It is famous for its museums. You can also enjoy the beautiful



view of Frankfurt's skyline on the Mainufer. We also went to the "Museum of blind man" where we experienced the life of a blind man while walking in total darkness around the museum. It was a very touching experience. And the end we could even had some drinks and food in the dark.

Daytrip to Rüdesheim

Rüdesheim is a tiny town in Hessen. It is famous for their wineries, the charming oldtown and the *Niederwalddenkmal* on top of the Rheingau Hills. Rüdesheim is located at the river Rhein – right at the southern part of the romantic *Middle Rhein Area* – a UNESCO World Heritage site.

At our arrival we had a tour trough out Rüdesheim. Afterwards we went up to the *Niederwalddenkmal* (picture left: we are on our way up to the top of the hill. Picture below: the *Niederwalddenkmal*)



The *Niederwalddenkmal* is a monument located in the



Niederwald, near Rüdesheim on the river Rhine in Hesse, Germany. It overlooks the valley of the Rhine and was built in the 1870/80s to commemorate the Unification of Germany.

The *Niederwald* is a broad hill on the right bank of the Rhine. The hill forms the southwestern apex of the Taunus range. Its summit is covered by dense forest of oak and beech. Its southern and western sides are covered with vineyards. The

monument is located at the edge of the forest, above Rudesheim.

The Niederwalddenkmal can be reached by gondola lift from Rudesheim to Niederwald, by car or chairlift from Assmannshausen or by trails on foot.

The monument was constructed to celebrate the founding of the German Empire in 1871 after the end of the Franco-Prussian War. The first stone was laid on 16 September 1871, by Kaiser Wilhelm I (William I). The sculptor was Johannes Schilling, and the architect was Karl Weißbach. The total cost of the work is estimated at one million gold marks. The 38 metres (125 ft) tall monument represents the union of all Germans.

The central figure is the 10.5 metres (34 ft) tall Germania figure, holding the recovered crown of the emperor in the right hand and in the left the Imperial Sword.

Enjoying the view



The view halfway to Assmannshausen

On top of the hill we had a picknick and enjoyed the wonderful view down towards the Rhine valley and the charming city of Bingen. Afterwards we walked down to the beautiful village of Assmannshausen where we had dinner and entered the train back to Frankfurt.

Limburg

Limburg an der Lahn



by: Zaka

Short introduction of Limburg

Limburg is an old town located in west Germany not so far away from Frankfurt, in the region of Hessen.

The population of Limburg is around 35.000 resident.

Things to see in Limburg are for example: the Limburg Cathedral, the old Lahn bridge, the Schaumburg castle and of course the Lahn river.

The old Lahn bridge

The old Lahn bridge was constructed in the 13th Century



Limburg Cathedral

The cathedral was built in the 1235 a.c.



The Schaumburg castle

The castle was built in the 11th Century.



The river Lahn

The river is 245,6 km long and there

are many activities to.



NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

October the 3rd



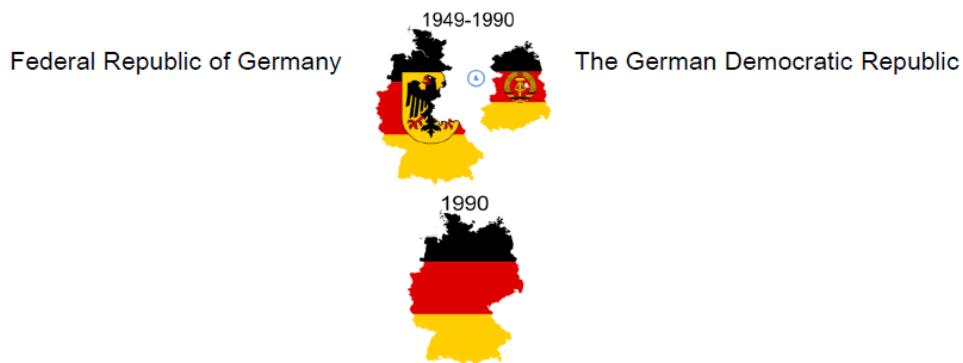
...is our most important national holiday!

Outline

- The Splitting of Germany into the West Germany and the East Germany
- How Germany reunified
- How did the 3rd October become a national holiday?

The Splitting of Germany into the BRD and the DDR

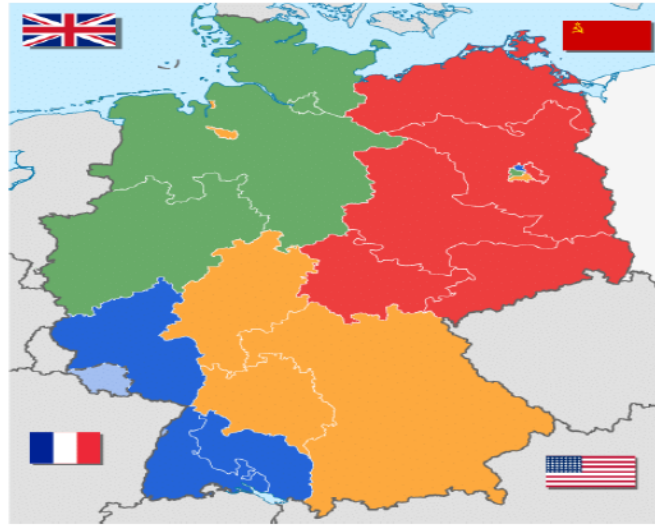
- In 1949, four years after the second world war, there were two German states: The German Democratic Republic (GDR) in the east and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in the west

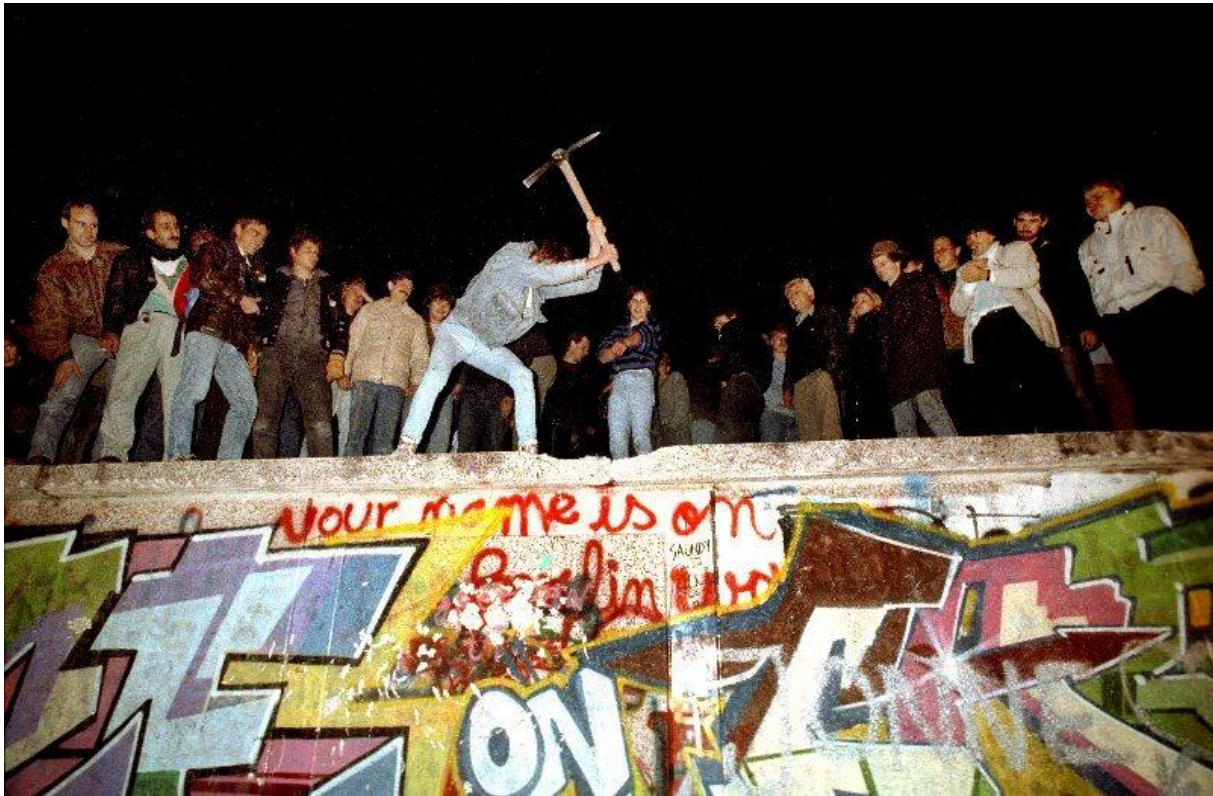


- East Germany was under the influence of the soviet union and West Germany followed the western life style of the USA, Great Britain and France
- After 1952 the differences between the two states increased more and more



- While the DDR struggled economically, East Germany prospered
- Thousands of Germans fled from the West to East, which motivated East Germany to close its borders and secure them with weapons. This reached its height in the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.





How Germany reunified

- In June 1953 it came to protests and strikes in east Berlin and other parts of the East Germany. In 1989 Leipzig, Dresden and other cities of East Germany saw mass protests.
- In the beginning the protestors demanded free travel into western countries, especially the West Germany, free elections and a free economy. But the idea of reunification soon grew stronger and stronger.
- On the 9th November 1989 East Germany opened its borders and the Berlin wall fell.
- On the 31st August 1990 the second treaty between West and East was signed, which concerns the details of the reunification.
- On the 3rd of October 1990 Germany reunified





Christmas in Germany

a presentation of Zaka and Ben

Christmas holidays (Weihnachtsfeiertage)

- 24. December: Christmas Eve (Heiligabend)
- 25. December: Christmas Day (1. Weihnachtsfeiertag)
- 26. December: Boxing Day (2. Weihnachtsfeiertag)



„Morgen kommt der Weihnachtsmann“
Aquarell von Frank Koebsch

	Mo	Di	Mi	Do	Fr	Sa	So
1						1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6	31						

12 2018
www.stellen-koebsch.de

Christmas Tree (Tannenbaum)

- ★ German Christians were the first
- ★ First Christmas tree: 1419, Freiburg, town bakers
- ★ Decorated on Christmas Eve / Advent season.
- ★ Decorations in Christmas Tree:
tinsel, glass balls, sweets, star / angel at the top
- ★ Presents are placed next to the tree



Pre Christmas Time (Vorweihnachtszeit)

In many cities in Germany there is a Christmas market

- ★ Mulled wine
- ★ Gingerbread
- ★ Crêpes
- ★ Cookies





Church bells in the city (Stadtgeläut)

In Frankfurt:

- ★ 50 bells in 10 churches
- ★ Saturday before first Advent: 16:30 till 17:00 o'clock
- ★ Christmas Eve: 17:00 till 17:30 o'clock



Christmas Eve (Heiligabend)

- ★ 24. December
- ★ The last day of Advent / The start of the Christmas season
- ★ Decorating Christmas trees, attending church services, eating traditional dishes and opening Christmas presents

Traditional food

★ Potato salad with sausages



★ Christmas goose



★ Mulled Wine



Advent wreath (Adventskranz)

- ★ 4 candles
- ★ Lit during each subsequent week
- ★ The light symbolizes the rising anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ
- ★ First Advent wreath: Hamburg 1839, orphanage, Johann Hinrich Wichern



Advent calendar (Adventskalender)

- ★ Count down the days until Christmas Eve
- ★ Creates Christmas mood



LEGAL AGES AND SOCIAL LIFE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN GERMANY

At our school there is only one language we learn: English. In other schools there are also other languages you can learn, such as Spanish or French.

The average age in our class is 16 to 20 years, we also have different cultures in the class, many of them fled war. It is a multi-cultural class. There are Iranians, Afghans, Spaniards and many more cultures.

Our lesson starts at 8:00 am when all the children have to be in class. Before the teacher comes to class, we should put our school items on our tables to start directly. One school lesson lasts 45 minutes. We have school until 1:10 pm every day, except on Tuesday until 2:25 pm and on Thursday until 3:00 pm.

As in every country we have different subjects. The main subjects are math, German and English. We also have learning fields, sports and run the student's cafe. Many teachers and students come to eat there, of course it costs money but they come anyway. This school year our class runs the student's cafe. There are 6 groups of 5 to 6 people each. Each of the groups will cook three Thursdays for the students and teachers who have lessons until the afternoon. The student cafe is a duty task and must be done, who does not do this duty task cannot come to the upper grade (11th class). In order to get in the 11th grade, you have to complete an internship. This is about 4 weeks and every student has to do it. From this we learn how professional life works and we can think about which profession we would like to choose after school. If you do not attend the internship, you will not reach the upper class neither.

In Germany we have many holidays and therefore also no school on those days. There are special holidays such as Rose Monday. For the Easter holidays we have 2 weeks school free, for summer holidays 6 weeks, for autumn holidays 2 weeks and in the winter holidays 3 weeks.

In our school we do not wear a school uniform and in many other schools this is the same. Everyone can wear what he/she wants.

The obligations of students: Students are required to attend classes and school events regularly and to arrive on time. The absence by illness the parents report the same day by telephone in the secretary of the school. In order to be exempted from lessons, parents must report in good time. Missed instruction material must be made up. Pupils are obliged to comply with the school regulations. They do their homework and have the necessary tools. Pupils appear prepared for class. Pupils have a duty to actively participate in the classroom.

The rights of students: Every pupil has the right to express their own opinion freely. But others should not be hurt. Insults and false accusations are therefore inappropriate. All students have the right to be informed about lesson contents. Failure to do homework is taken into account in the grade certificate. Students can be exempted from class for special events. The lesson contents have to be reworked. Pupils receive information about their level of performance on request.

After graduating from high school, you can either do an apprenticeship, do a vocational school, or get a secondary school diploma and either pass your high school diploma or look for an apprenticeship. The training always takes 2.5 to 3 year, only if you have a high school diploma it will be reduced to 2 years. You still go to school during your apprenticeship, most of the time it is two days of school and three days at work.

Many, who just go to school, work on the side to have more money in their pockets and to help parents too. Many also get to work to save for their driver's license etc. If you're 16 years old you are allowed to work. You can get a driver's license in the age of 17 but 17-year old drivers have to be joined by one parent. With the age of 18, one can drive a car on himself / herself.

At the age of 18, in Germany you are legally of age, you can write the apology for the school by yourself, run a company, move out of your home and so on. But even if it sounds nice to be 18, you have to take on a lot of responsibility and get your own life on your own.

The age limits here in Germany in terms of alcohol consumption and cigarettes are very limited. That means only those one the age 18 are allowed to buy cigarettts and alcohol in the market. Young people get the full voting rights with the age of 18, too.



Questions about the text:

"Legal ages and social life of young people in Germany":

1. Which languages are learned at most schools?

- a) Turkish
- b) English
- c) Latin

2. How many cultures are in the class?

- a) 3
- b) 5
- c) even more

3. How long is our lesson on Tuesday?

- a) until 1.10 pm
- b) until 2.40 pm
- c) until 2.25 pm

4. In which school lesson do teachers and students come together to eat?

- a) Math
- b) LF 3
- c) Student's cafe

5. What must one finish to enter the 11th grade?

- a) Internship and student's cafe
- b) German and math
- c) Student' cafe and sport



6. In which holiday do we have three weeks school free?

- a) Easter holiday**
- b) Summer holiday**
- c) Winter holiday**

7. What do the parents have to do if the students are ill?

- a) The parents have to see the doctor**
- b) The parents have to inform the secretary of the school**
- c) The parents have to relax**

8. Every student has the right to express their own opinion, but no one should be...?

- a) listening to the person**
- b) hurt**
- c) saying something**

9. When you do training you go to school and to work, how is the time divided?

- a) Two days at work and three days at school**
- b) Three days at work and two days at school**
- c) Three days at school and work**

9. Young people in Germany get the full voting rights with the age of.....

10. Young people in Germany can get a driver's license aged..... but when they drive a car a parent.....

Answer sheet

Questions about the text: "Legal ages and social life of young people in Germany":

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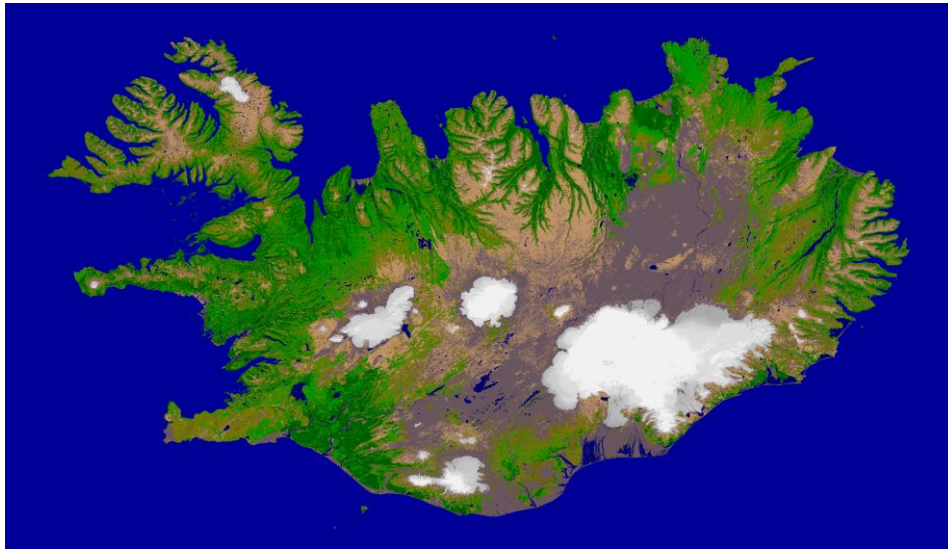
c) Three days at school and work

9. Young people in Germany get the full voting rights with the age of..... (18).

10. Young people in Germany can get a driver's license aged...(17)..... but when they drive a car a parent..... (has to join him/her).

ICELAND

Iceland was created over 16 million years ago by volcanoes but Iceland is located at a peculiar place because it is in Europe and North America so if you go to Þingvellir which is located on the two tectonic plates, you can walk from Europe to North America in a couple of seconds.



Iceland

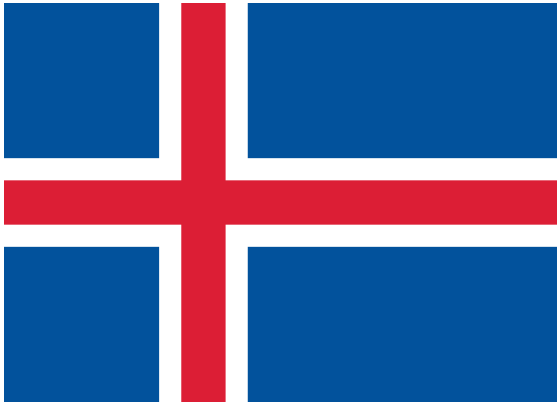
Ingólfur Arnarson was the first to come to Iceland and he settled here around 870 and most of the people that came here were from Scandinavia and with them they brought a large number of slaves from Ireland and other neighbouring countries. With time people started to speak Icelandic which comes from north Germanic and it has evolved over time.

In Iceland people's last names end with either the person's mother's or father's name and son (son) if you are a boy or dóttir (daughter) if you are a girl.

One of Iceland's largest industry is fishing. In the beginning one the jobs you could have was being a fisherman but you could also work as a farmer but with time other kinds of industries started to take over the fishing industry and now that industry is not as popular as it once was, yet it is still very important for Iceland because it is the country's largest export industry.



Ingólfur Arnarson



Sports in Iceland are popular especially football. Iceland competes in the Olympics. Iceland is also the smallest country to have ever taken part in FIFA World Cup.

Iceland is most known for its natural wonders and beautiful scenery. Tourism in Iceland has grown considerably over the past few years. In 2017 the number of visitors exceeded 2,000,000 for the first time.

The Icelandic flag

Here are some other interesting facts about Iceland:

- There are 357,050 people that live in Iceland.
- Iceland has an area of 103,000 km² (40,000 sq mi) making it the most sparsely populated country in Europe
- In Iceland you can find deer's but only east of Iceland.
- Iceland is a volcanic island and has many active volcanoes the most famous ones are Hekla, Katla and Eyjafjallajökull.
- Iceland has a national beer day.
- There is a penis museum in Reykjavik. It contains a collection of penises from over 200 different mammals, including one from a man.
- Beer was illegal in Iceland until 1989.
- Iceland Has a Total of 13 Santas.
- Babies in Iceland are routinely left outside to nap.
- Almost everyone in Iceland are related.
- The only volcano you can actually go INSIDE of, not only in Iceland but the entire world, is Þríhnúkaígur volcano.
- The longest word in Icelandic is:
vaðlaheiðarvegavinnuverkfærageymsluskúraútidyralklippuhringur

REYKJAVÍK

Reykjavík is the capital of Iceland and has a population of roughly 124,800. Reykjavík has by far the highest population of any town/city in Iceland, in second place is Kópavogur with a population of 35,966. Reykjavík only gets around 4-6 of sunlight in the winter and almost 24 hours of sunlight in the summer as a result of being located only 2 degrees south of the Arctic Circle.

Perlan was designed by architect Ingimundur Sveinsson and opened on 21 June 1991. The building is composed of an immense glass dome that sits on six hot-water tanks, each carrying 4 million litres of geothermal hot water.



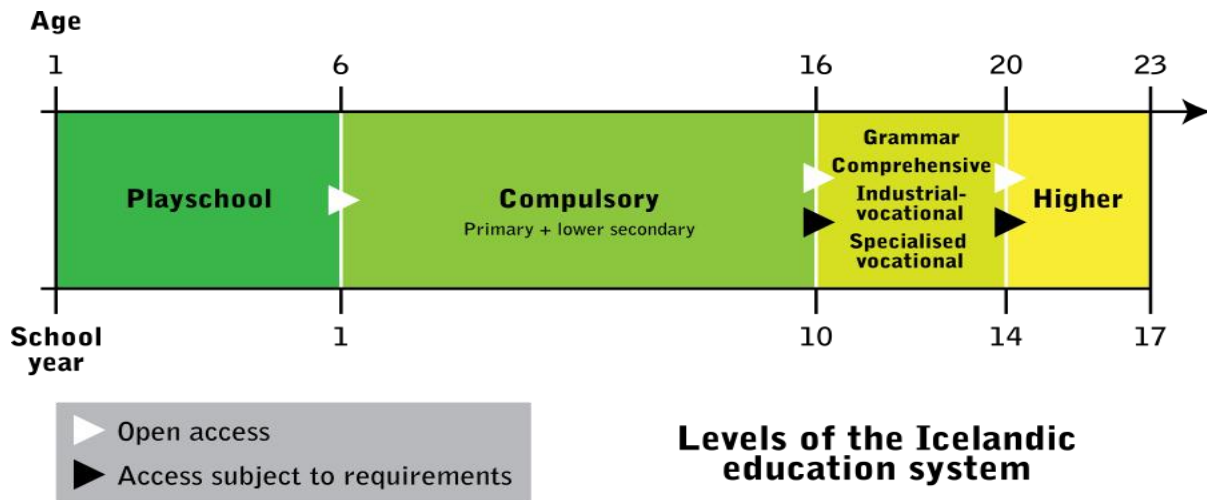
Harpa is a concert hall and conference centre in Reykjavík. The opening concert was held on May 4, 2011. The building features a distinctive colored glass facade inspired by the basalt landscape of Iceland. Harpa was designed by Danish firm Henning Larsen Architects and Ólafur Elíasson.



Hallgrímskirkja is the second tallest building in Iceland standing at 74.5 meters. The church was designed by architect Guðjón Samúelsson and was dedicated to the most renowned sacred poet of Iceland, Hallgrímur Pétursson. Construction started in 1945 and ended in 1986.



THE ICELANDIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



Everyone in Iceland is equally entitled to an education, irrespective of gender, disability, religion, culture and social background. The system of education in Iceland is divided in four levels: kindergarten, primary, upper college and university, and is similar to that of other Nordic countries.

The first one is kindergarten. In kindergarten there are kids from 12 months to 6 years old. The learning technique that are used are taught through playing. They use numbers, letters and colors. It is defined as the first level of the educational system. Most of Icelandic kids go to kindergarten but it is not mandatory.

The next level of the educational system is primary school. The subjects that are taught there are for example math, culture, sports, swimming, Danish and English. Primary school is mandatory from 6 to 16 years old. Upper secondary education is when you finish primary school, but it isn't mandatory. In upper collage you have the option to choose what career path you want to go on such as a mechanic, automotive painter, psychology and more.

Most people finish student degree in around 3-4 years. Universities in Iceland are not mandatory, student degree from college is needed to applicate for university. People can learn different things like art, business, medicine, nursing and more. Hundreds of foreign students each year attend Iceland's universities and many courses are taught in English.

Tækniskólinn

The School and its locations

Tækniskólinn consists of around 11 buildings. Which are located at 4 different places. The reason is because some buildings are specifically for The Flight School, for some part of the Electrician, Mechanic, Construction school and etc. The main buildings are:

Skólavörðuholt - Reykjavík and Flatahraun - Hafnarfjörður.



Skólavörðuholt



Hafnarfjörður

The Education and options

Tækniskólinn provides a vast variety of educational departments which include:

- industrial, mechanical or building
- software/programming
- academic courses
- flight courses
- Hair Cutting/Styling
- Designing



Some examples of our courses taught at Tækniskólinn are:

- Electrician, Small Components, Sound Course.
- Metalworks, Pipes/Plumbing, Welding Course.
- Architect, Builder/Construction Course.
- Computers, Programming, Software, Website Design Course.
- Hair Dressing/Styling Course.
- Normal typical Science Course.
- Flight school.
- Information and Media Course.
- Clothes Design.
- And so much more.

Students can choose to take student course and go to university after the graduate or they can choose to take up an apprenticeship or go into a specialization



SIGHTSEEING SPOTS IN ICELAND

The Icelandic Golden Circle



Gullfoss

The Waterfall called Gullfoss is one of Iceland's most beautiful sights. Not a coincidence that its name translates as the Golden Waterfall. The water in Hvítá river travels from the glacier Langjökull, before cascading 32 meters down Gullfoss' two stages in a dramatic display of nature's raw power. This incredible site is seen by most visitors, as it is on the Golden Circle sightseeing route.

Because of the waterfall's two stages, Gullfoss should actually be thought of as two separate features. The first, shorter cascade is 11 metres, whilst the second drop is 21 metres. The canyon walls on both sides of the waterfall reach heights of up to 70 metres, descending into

the great Gullfossgjúfur canyon. Geologists believe that this canyon was formed by glacial outbursts at the beginning of the last age.

In the summer, approximately 140 cubic metres of water surges down the waterfall every second, whilst in winter that number drops to around 109 cubic metres. With such energy, visitors should not be surprised to find themselves drenched by the waterfall's mighty spray.

As mentioned, Gullfoss makes up a part of the highly popular Golden Circle sightseeing route, alongside Geysir geothermal area and Þingvellir National Park. Many Golden Circle tours include additional activities that can be taken from Gullfoss, such as ascending the mighty nearby glacier Langjökull and entering its ice tunnels, or snowmobiling along its gleaming surface



History

In the early days of the last century, Gullfoss was at the centre of much controversy regarding foreign investors and their desire to profit off Iceland's nature. In the year 1907, an English businessman, Howell, sought to utilise the waterfall's energy and harboured ambitions to use its energy to fuel a hydroelectric plant.

At the time, Gullfoss was owned by a farmer named Tómas Tómasson. Tómas declined Howell's offer to purchase the land, stating famously "I will not sell my friend!" He would, however, go on to lease Howell the land without the knowledge of a loophole that would allow him to proceed with his plans.

It was Tómas' daughter, Sigríður Tómasdóttir, who would lead the charge to stop Howell's ambitions. Having grown up on her father's sheep farm where she helped pave the first road to Gullfoss, she sought to get the contract nullified, hurriedly saving her own money to hire a lawyer.

The ensuing legal battle was an uphill struggle; the case continued for years, forcing Sigríður to travel many times by foot to Reykjavík, a distance of over 100 kilometres. Circumstances became so difficult that Sigríður threatened to throw herself into the waterfall if any construction began.

Her tenacity, however, resulted in success. In 1929, Howell's withdrew from the lease, unable to keep up with the costs and difficulties of his plan. The waterfall fell back into the hands of the Icelandic people.

Today, Sigríður is recognised for her perseverance in protecting Gullfoss and is often hailed as Iceland's first environmentalist. As such, she is one of the most famous figures in Iceland's history. Her contribution is forever marked in stone; a plaque detailing her plight sits at the top of Gullfoss.

Interestingly, the lawyer who assisted Sigríður, Sveinn Björnsson, went on to go down in history too; he became the first president of Iceland in 1944.

Geysir

Geography

Though Geysir itself is rarely active these days, Haukadalur Valley boasts a plethora of hot springs and geysers, including the powerful Strokkur, Smiður and Litli-Strokkur.

Strokkur is, arguably, the country's most famous hot spring, shooting vast jets of boiling water from 20 metres up to 40 metres high. Don't worry about missing this incredible spectacle of nature, as Strokkur erupts every five to ten minutes; just make sure to have your camera ready.

Geysir is much larger, but years can go by between eruptions here; it is currently in an inactive phase. When it does erupt, the water can shoot up in the air as high as 70 metres.



Just a few minutes walk north of Geysir are a wealth of fumaroles emanating steam and gas into the cool Icelandic air. Aside from watching the hypnotic pillars of steam, you will also be able to observe the yellow sulphuric stains along the fumaroles themselves, a result of the earth's minerals crystallising around the rock bed.

At the southern part of the valley, Þykkuhverir, you'll find various bubbling mud pots. These spooky brown cauldrons are actually fumaroles that boil up through the loose ground; after a dry spell, these mud pools are likely to transform into a hardened fumarole.

History

Haukadalur has been inhabited and used as a church site since the Age of Settlement. Given its historic value, it should be noted that scholar, Ari "The Wise" Þorgilsson, grew up here; it was also where the first pastoral school in Iceland was built.

The current wooden church was last rebuilt in 1938 but its architectural style dates back to 1842, making it well worth a visit to see how Iceland looked before industrialisation.

For accommodation, Hotel Gullfoss is approximately 7 kilometres from the Geysir area, and closer still is Hotel Geysir on the other side of the road from the attraction, where you will also find a restaurant, café and a souvenir shop.



Pingvellir

Pingvellir National Park is the only UNESCO World Heritage site on the Icelandic mainland and one of the three stops on the world famous Golden Circle sightseeing route, alongside the Haukadalur Geothermal Valley (Geysir) and Gullfoss Waterfall. Just to the south of the park is Þingvallavatn, Iceland's largest natural lake.

Geography

The first thing that visitors to the National Park notice is its sheer aesthetic beauty; dried magma fields, covered in Icelandic moss, sit carved by glacial springs and surrounded by a bowl of ancient mountain peaks.

Two of the greatest attractions in the park are the exposed North American and Eurasian tectonic plates; it is one of the only regions in the world where you can see geology such as this on land.

Visitors are encouraged to walk along the North American tectonic plate, where they can read more about the area's fascinating formation and history, before descending into the valley below.



History

Pingvellir can be anglicised to 'Fields of Parliament', a nod to the area's fascinating history and relevance to Icelandic culture. It is here, after all, that the world's first democratically elected parliament that remains functioning, Alþingi, was formed in 930 AD.

It may seem unlikely that Vikings would want to be under such an uncombative government, but the thirty or so clans that lived in Iceland at the time sought to prosper in their harsh new environment.

The first gathering was such a success that the meetings became annual, and it became a place where disputes were settled, criminals were tried, and laws to the benefit of all were laid down.

This saw the birth of the Icelandic Commonwealth, a time of independence and freedom for the Icelandic people before they became constituents of the Norwegian monarchy. Sessions would continue to be held at Þingvellir until 1798.

Though the parliament was removed by the Danish at this time, it returned 1845 to Reykjavík.

Another major reason as to why Þingvellir is considered so important to Icelanders is the fact that this is where the decision was made to abandon the belief of Paganism and the Norse Gods; the people adopted Christianity in 1000 AD under threat of invasion from Norway.

This turning point in history was left to the pagan lawspeaker, Þorgeir Þorkelsson, who rested on the choice for one day and one night before reappearing to share his decision.

To symbolise the country's change, he threw idols of his old deities into the northern waterfall Goðafoss, the name of which translates to 'Waterfall of the Gods'.



Silfra Fissure

Þingvellir is one of the most widely visited attractions in Iceland, in large part due to the fact that it is home to the glacial spring, Silfra fissure, one of the top ten sites in the world for snorkelers and scuba divers.

Silfra (meaning 'Silver') is a submerged ravine within the park, boasting visibility of up to 100 metres and a temperature just above freezing. Participants in these tours will be attired at the Silfra carpark in neoprene hoodies and gloves, as well as an undersuit and drysuit for thermal protection.



Hafnarfjörður

Hafnarfjörður is Iceland's third largest town, with a population of over 29,800. Hafnarfjörður was built on lava and is surrounded by lava fields. The early settlers came to this area with great determination to find and live a good life. They made their living through fishing and merchandising and the closeness to the ocean lead Hafnarfjörður to become a major trading center in Iceland and many actually dreamed of Hafnarfjörður becoming the capital of Iceland.

Hafnarfjörður offers fresh local cuisine, great geothermal pools, lava and stunning natural phenomena, a boatload of activities as well as hosting a yearly Viking festival and the The Christmas market. First and foremost, Hafnarfjörður offers a chance to experience the local lifestyle of Icelanders.



Suðurbæjarlaug

NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS IN ICELAND

Easter

Easter is when we Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. On it we eat chocolate eggs that are filled with candy. Inside the egg there is also a piece of paper with a proverb written on it. People also use the day to go to church since this is the biggest holidays in Christianity. The dates when Easter is celebrated varies from year to year. The earliest date that Easter can be held is 22 March and the latest is 25 April. The day after Easter is also a holiday.



Easter egg

First day of summer

In Iceland we celebrate the first day of summer. On it kids don't have to attend school and the adults that need to go to work get extra pay. There are many organized events held all around the country. The first day of summer is always on Thursday after 18 April.

Icelandic National Day (17 June)

Icelandic national day is held to commemorate the foundation of the Republic of Iceland on 17 June 1944. It ended the Danish rule over Iceland and gave us full sovereignty over both domestic and foreign policy. The date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of Jón Sigurðsson. He was a major figure in the Icelandic independence movement during the 19th century. Each year we celebrate our independence on the 17th of June, most people get the day off from work and many go down town or to their town or city centre and march and celebrate together.



People marching on June 17th

Labour Day

Takes place on 1 May. It is an International holiday that revolves around the fight of workers for better working conditions. On this day trade unions hold demonstrations and marches to make their demands on how to improve the lives of workers.

Commerce day

Commerce day is always celebrated on the first Monday in August. The idea originates from Denmark and was meant to give shop workers a day off from work. Because the holiday is on a Monday it extends the weekend to be 3 days long. This makes it a popular weekend to hold festivals and travel. The biggest festival is held in Vestmannaeyjar and is known for the high alcohol consumption that takes place there.

Christmas

Christmas in Iceland is mainly celebrated on 24 and 25 December. The special thing about Icelandic Christmas is that we have thirteen Santa Clauses. From 12 December they come one by one from the mountains and give kids presents. Thirteen days after 25 December, the last Santa Claus has gone home. This makes the Christmas festival in Iceland be among the longest in the world.

New Year's

New Year's occurs during the 31 December and extends to 1 January. On it we celebrate the beginning of a new year. During New Year's people visit bonfires, shoot up a lot of fireworks and visit family and friends.



People attending a bonfire on New Year's Eve

SOCIAL LIFE AND LEGAL AGES

School

School attendance is compulsory from the age of 6 to 16. Parents are obligated to ensure that their children of compulsory school age are registered and attend school. People are in school for 180 days during one school year.

Adulthood

In Iceland, the age of consent is 15 and the age of competence is 18. At 18 the individual receives legal competence, i.e. financial competence and personal competence, as well as the right to vote. You can get a licence to drive on the day you turn 17. A person must be 20 years old to buy alcohol.

Marriage

Everybody who is over the age of 18 can get married and register for cohabitation. This also applies to individuals of the same sex. You can get a divorce even if your spouse does not want to. At divorce the assets and debts are usually split evenly between the couple unless there are contracts to the contrary.



Social life

Cinema Icelanders' love of going to the movies is reflected in the number of active movie theatres located within the city.



Sports

Sports in Iceland are very popular. Popular sports include handball, football, skiing, athletics, basketball, golf, volleyball, tennis, swimming and rock climbing; horseback riding on Icelandic horses is also popular and also archery. In some of those sports, namely handball, football and basketball, Iceland is extremely successful, considering its population. It manages to compete at comparable level with countries that have 10-200 times its population.

Iceland's most famous athlete comes from the world of football. Eiður Guðjohnsen has played in England's Premier League for Chelsea F.C. winning the league title and the Community Shield twice, as well the League Cup once. He also played in La Liga for FC Barcelona.



as

Eiður Smári Guðjohnsen

Skiing

Northern lights, snow, frozen waterfalls. There are many reasons to enjoy Iceland in wintertime. For locals, one of those reasons is skiing. Bláfjöll is a popular ski area, conveniently situated just half an hour outside of Reykjavík. It's the largest ski resort in Iceland, with runs of varying difficulty levels covering a total of 15 kilometres. The slopes are wide and well-maintained.



POLAND



POLAND



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



The Republic of Poland – a country located in Central Europe, between the Baltic Sea in the north and the arcs of mountains – the Sudetes and the Carpathians in the south. In the west of the country, the border is on the rivers: Odra and Nysa Luzycka. The administrative area of Poland is 312,679 square kilometres which makes that our country the 69th place in the world and 9th in the UE when it comes to the size. Poland is inhabited by almost 38,5 million citizens, which means that Poland is at 36th place in the world and at 6th in the UE when it comes to the population.



Poland and its neighbours (fot.1.)

WARSAW

The capital city of Poland is Warsaw. There are located such executive as:

the parliament of Poland, the official seat of the President and The Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland and also institutions such as National Theatre, the biggest sports multiarena all over the country and the best university called the University of Warsaw.

Not only does the city attract investors and students, but also the tourists.



Views of Warsaw (fot.2.)



The mermaid of Warsaw is one of the symbols of the capital (fot.3.)



The **coat of arms of Poland** is a white, crowned eagle with a golden beak and talons, on the red background.

The **colours of Polish flag** consist of red and white as they reflect the coat of arms. The white colour symbolises the purity whereas red is the colour of blood and means the courage.



Ceremonial raising of the flag of Poland
(fot.4.)

The national anthem is "**Mazurek Dąbrowskiego**", also known by its lyrics, "**Poland Is Not Yet Lost**". It is the patriotic song written in 1797 during the formation of Polish Legions in Italy. The song has been the anthem since 1927.



The highest summit of Poland is Rysy- 2499 meters above sea level (fot.5.)

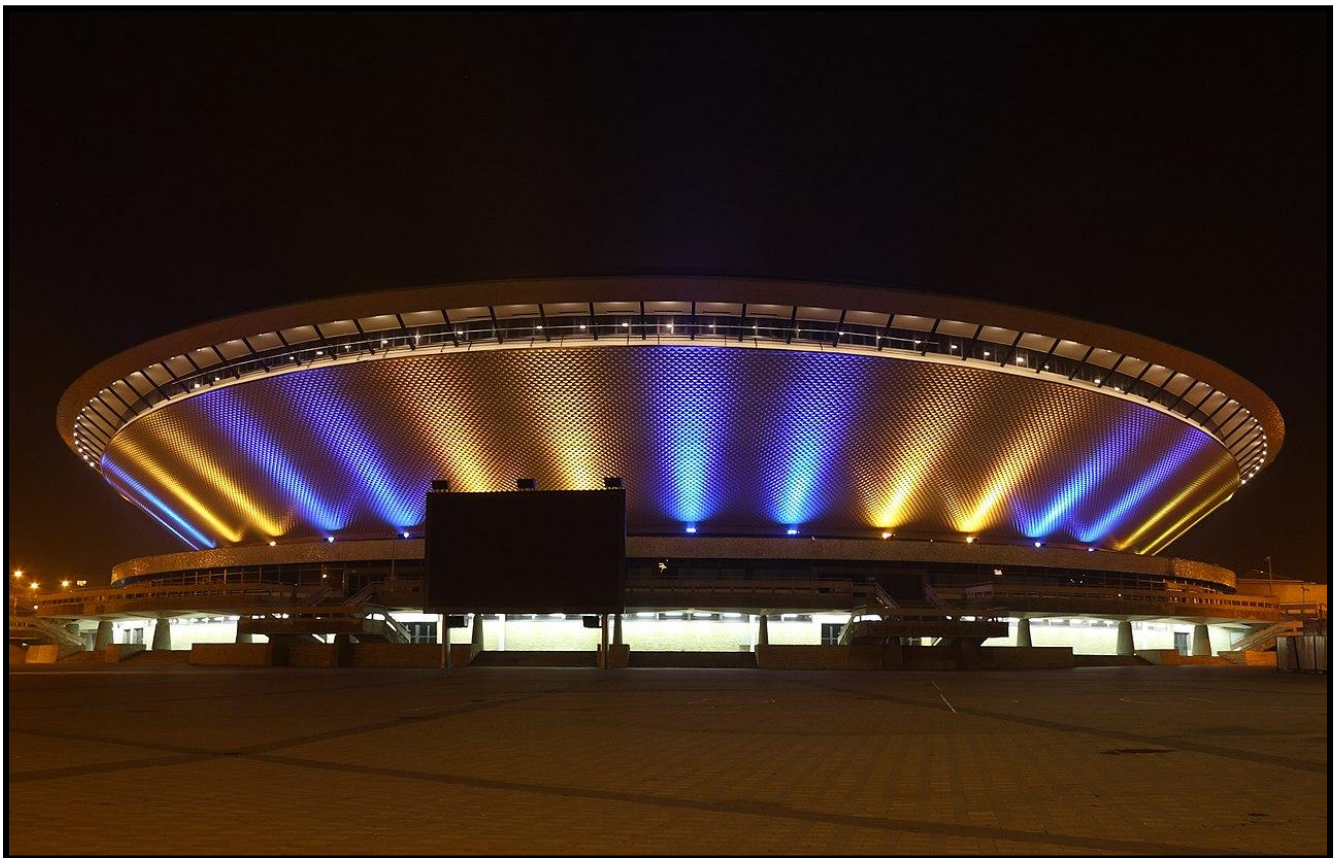


The longest river- Wisła- 1047 km (fot.6)

Silesian Voivodeship- it is the highest-level of administrative subdivision of Poland, located in the south part of Poland. The area is inhabited by 4,57 mln people. The capital of this voivodeship is Katowice. The voivodeship is divided into 17 counties including Lubliniec County with Town of Lubliniec.



Voivodeship's location (fot.7.)



Spodek- multiarena in Katowice (fot.8.)



Jasna Góra so-called „spiritual capital of Poland” - one of the most essential places of worship of Saint Mary and one of the most important spots for pilgrim's journey.

Location of Czestochowa (fot.9.)



Jasna Góra - „spiritual capital of Poland” (fot.10.)



The miraculous painting
of Saint Mary
(fot.11.)

The tower of sanctuary
in the area of Jasna Góra (fot.12.)



LUBLINIEC

Lubliniec is a town in north-west part of Silesian voivodeship, located at the Lublinica River, surrounded by extensive woods. Our town has a lucrative location in terms of its traffic connections with the most important urban centres of Poland.



Lubliniec's mascot called Lubiś
(fot.14)

Lubliniec's location
(fot.13.)

Lubliniec	
Establishment date	1272
Mayor	Edward Maniura
Area	89,36 km ²
Population	24518 people
Zip-code	42-700



Saint Anna's Church is a very historical shrine (fot.15.)



The palace complex of Lubliniec (fot.16.)



The Main Market Square (fot.17.)



The Little Market Square (fot.18.)

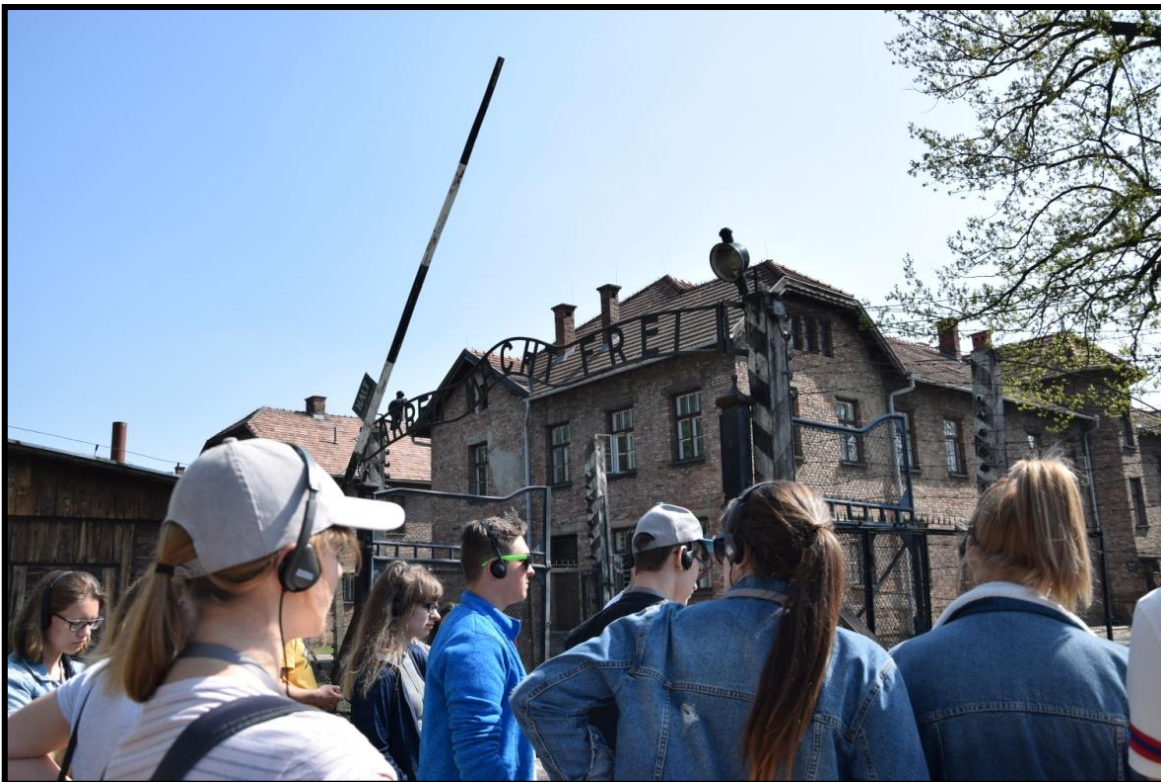
SIGHTSEEING SPOTS IN POLAND

Auschwitz

The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp became the world's symbol of horror, terror, genocide – all these words come down to the Holocaust or the Shoah. In the area of previously located barracks the Nazis established concentration camp in 1940. People such as Jews, Poles, Roma people and Czechoslovaks from countries under occupation were caught and moved to the camp to forced labour.

At the end of 1941 there was opened the second main part of the camp called Birkeanu. It was the place where the main aim was extermination. Within 3 years, since 1942 to 1945 there were killed about 1,2 million people. Prisoners who stayed alive were forced to slave labour for the Germans. The most part of the camp exists until now and tourists can see remains such as the distinctive main gate, the railroad siding, wooden and brick barracks and ruins of gas chambers .

The whole camp complex has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979.



The main gate of the Auschwitz camp
with the characteristic sentence „Arbeit macht frei”-
„Work makes free”
(fot.19.)



Auschwitz camp (fot.20.)



Auschwitz camp buildings (fot.21.)



Auschwitz camp buildings (fot.22.)



Railroad siding in Birkenau (fot.23.)



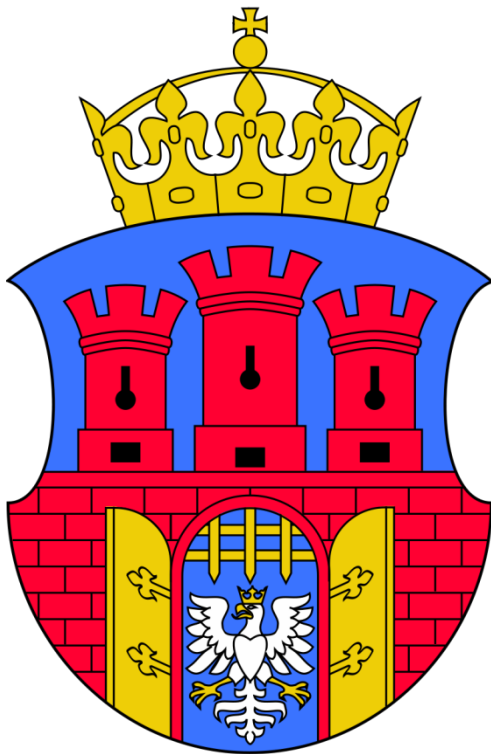
Barracks in Birkenau (fot.24.)



Barrack's interior in Birkenau (fot. 25)

Cracow

Cracow is located in southern Poland at the Wisła River and it is the second city in terms of population in Poland and it used to be its capital until XVI century.



The arms of Cracow (fot.27.)



Cracow's location (fot.26.)

Cracow	
Establishment date-	before IX century
Mayor	Jacek Majchrowski
Area	326,85km ²
Population	767348 people
Zip-code	30-001 up to 31-999

Cracow is full of stunning architectural monuments. Without a doubt the most distinctive is Wawel Castle which its history that goes back into XI century. There are situated the armoury, the vault and royal catacombs where Polish kings and honoured people are buried and their burial sites can be visited by tourists. Moreover tourist can see Zygmunt's Tower which looks over the stunning view of Cracow. The big Zygmunt, which was created in 1520, rings at all important events.



Zygmunt's Bell (fot.29.)

The main square of the Old Town of Cracow. The history of the square goes back to XIII century. It is the biggest square in Cracow and one of the biggest in Europe. On the main square and in the neighbourhood there are important monuments such as St. Mary's Basilica, the Cracow Cloth Hall and the city hall tower.



Wawel Cathedral (fot.28.)



St. Mary's Basilica (fot.30.)



St. Mary's Basilica- was founded in 1222 by Cracovian residents. The church is known for being one of the most famous gothic shrines in Poland. Inside the basilica there is the impressive altar called the Altarpiece by Veit Stoss.

Altarpiece by Veit Stoss(fot.31.)

The Cracow Cloth Hall - dates back to XVI century and the trading function of the Cloth Hall remains the same until nowadays. However, on the first floor there is the Art Gallery where visitors can admire paintings and sculptures by Polish artists of XIX century. The facade of the building is decorated by renaissance gargoyles and original attics.



Town Hall Tower by night (fot.33.)



The Cracow Cloth Hall (fot.32.)

The Town Hall Tower — the massive Gothic tower built of stone and brick and it is what remained of the town hall which was destroyed in 1820. The characteristic elements are: the couple of lions standing at the entrance and the Gothic gate with the coat of arms of Poland and Cracow.

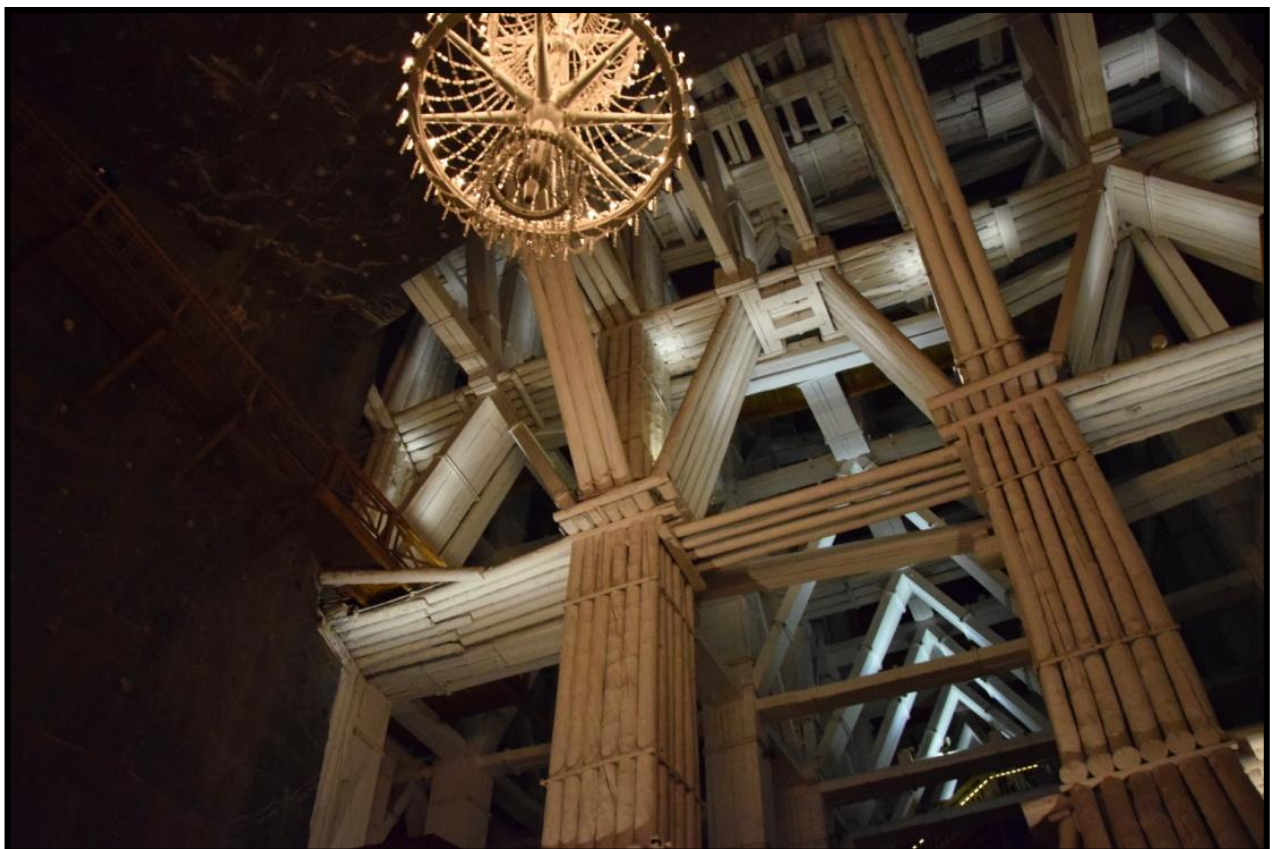
Wieliczka Salt Mine

Each year about 1 million of tourists from all over the world visit the **Wieliczka Salt Mine** which is known for its salt-crystal chambers, corridors, sculptures and old-time mining plant and underground St. Kinga's Wayside Shrine.

First tourists such as Mikołaj Kopernik, Fryderyk Chopin, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe visited this place many years ago. Currently there is available an underground route in length of 2 to 6 kilometres and it is located from 64 to 135m below the sea level.



Entrance to the mine (fot.34.)



Mine shaft reinforcement in the mine (zdj.35.)

The salt mine has appeared in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites as the "Wieliczka Royal Salt Mine" since 1978.



A sculpture of the pope - St. John Paul II (fot.36.)



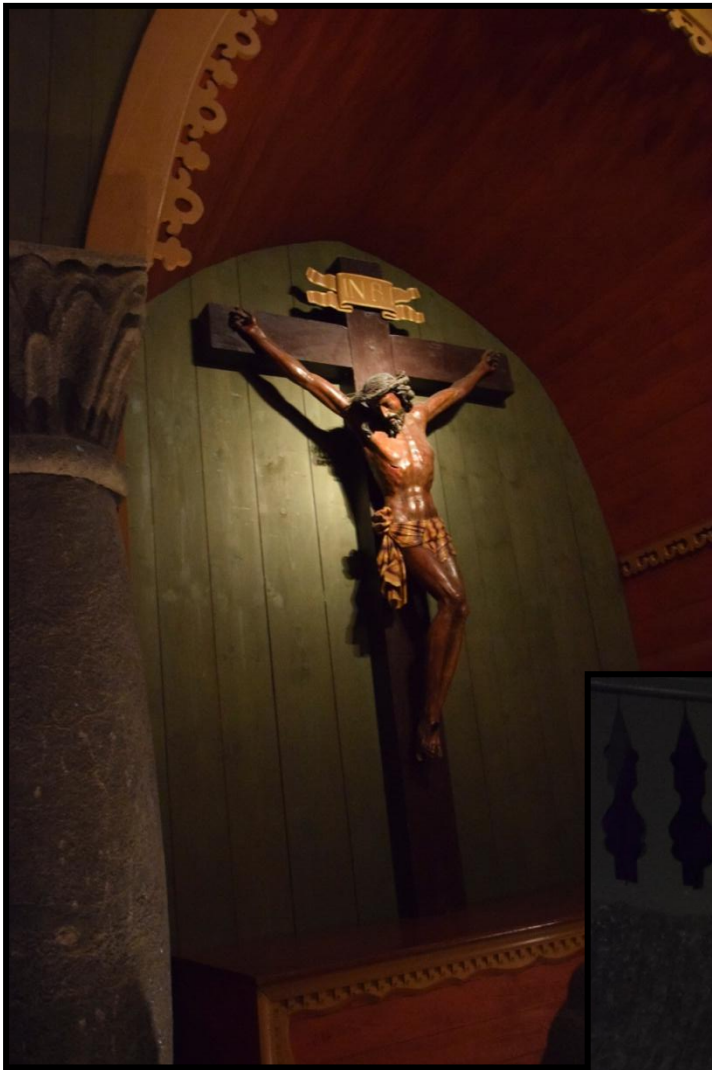
The wayside shrine of Saint Kinga (fot.37.)



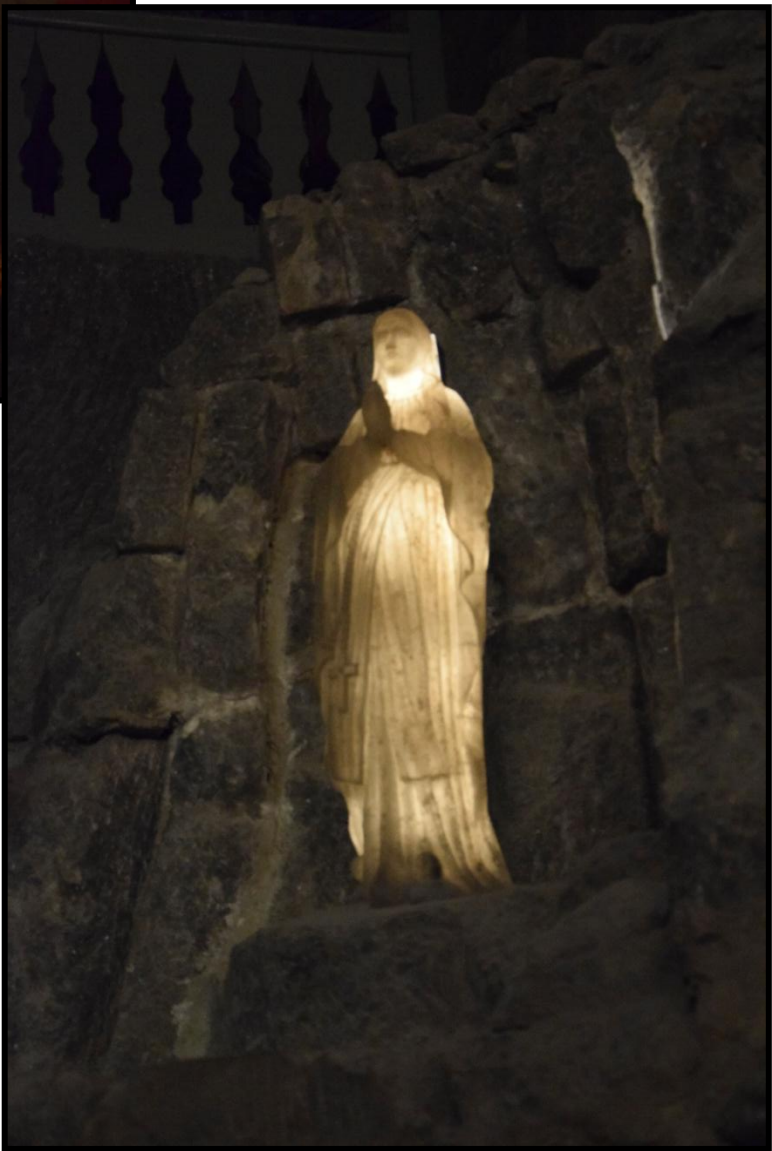
A bust of Kazimierz Wielki – one of the kings of Poland (fot.38.)



A figure of Saint Kinga (fot.39.)



The Altar in the chapel of Saint Cross (fot.40)



A sculpture of the Holy Mother (fot.41.)

HOLIDAYS IN POLAND

Epiphany

Epiphany is thought to be the day when the Wise Men from the East arrived at the cradle of the holy infant Jesus in Bethlehem. Thus, it is sometimes called „Three Kings’ Day” in Poland and in other countries. There are many Epiphany processions throughout Poland on this day, where people dress up as the Three Kings or in other biblical costumes.



Celebrations of the Epiphany in Lubliniec (fot.42.)

Easter

Easter in Poland is celebrated according to the Western Roman Catholic calendar. Rites and practices are therefore marked by Christianity, but still remain strongly influenced by pagan traditions. It is usual for both modern and conservative families to partake in the celebrations, regardless of what their religious beliefs may be. On Saturday before Easter Sunday Christians go to church to bless the dishes (eggs, meats, salt) and they celebrate the Easter Sunday breakfast.



Traditional Polish Easter basket. (zdj.43)

Constitution Day

Constitution Day is celebrated on May 3 to honour the Constitution of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth that was passed in 1791. It was Europe's first codified modern national constitution and the second in the world, following the American one. The day is celebrated with military parades, spring concerts and family picnics.



Ceremonial celebration
of Constitution Day in Lubliniec
(fot.44.)

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day - it is a Christian festival celebrated on 1 November. Families visit their loved ones' graves, they take part in church service to commemorate decedents. There is a tradition to light candles and decorate graves with chrysanthemums flowers



Polish graveyard during All Saints'
Day (fot.45.)

National Independence Day

National Independence Day is a national holiday in Poland celebrated on 11 November to commemorate the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty as the Second Polish Republic in 1918 from the German, Austrian and Russian Empires.



Independence Day
celebrations in Warsaw
(fot.46.)

Christmas

Christmas in Polish tradition is the most familiar festival. Often whole families gather from all over the world to spend this unique time with their family and relatives. Christmas Eve (December 24) is already considered to be the beginning of the feast. Families gather together at the Christmas Eve table and they eat Christmas dishes and sing Christmas carols.



Christmas tree on the Main Market Square
in Cracow (fot.47.)

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN POLAND

Polish Ministry of Education established by King Stanisław August Poniatowski in 1773 was the first ministry of education in the . Till today it supervises the system of education in Poland.

The education system consists of subsequent stages, they are:

Nursery school/ preschool

Compulsory **education in Poland** starts at the age of six from the mandatory "0" reception class (Polish *zerówka*). At the age of seven kids start the 1st grade of primary school.

Primary school

Primary school starts at seven. Following changes introduced by 2016 act, primary school has been extended to 8 years (age 7-15). The first three-year cycle is "integrated", with one teacher handling alone all or most of the subjects. The following five years offer a subject-based teaching. At the end of primary school, pupils write a compulsory national competence test.



Secondary education

Secondary education

At this level, students have the right to choose the direction of education. They can choose one of three types of schools:

- General education can be carried out in general secondary schools (liceum): after four years, students can pass the Matura exam, which allows access to higher education according to the achieved results.
- Vocational and technical education is mainly provided by technical schools (*technikum*). Technical schools last five years and lead to professional exams and the Matura. Their primary goal is to teach occupations and trades, the most popular are: accountant, mechanic, IT specialist, and salesperson. After graduating from the technical college, students can either go to university or take up a job in the profession they have learned.
- Basic vocational schools provide a vocational education lasting three years and grant a certificate of competence in various professions, the most popular are: shop-assistant, cook, gardener, automobile mechanic, hairdresser and baker. Students learn on some of the days a week at school and the rest of the week they spend in factories as internship. After graduating from vocational school students can continue studying for two more years order to pass the Matura exam.



Higher education

After passing the Matura exam, students may take up studies at universities. Polish universities follow the Bologna scheme and most of its study programmes consist of two cycles: a three-year bachelor's degree followed by a two-year master's degree. Some master's degrees are however granted after a unique long-cycle programme, lasting between five and six years (e.g. five years for pharmacy, six years for medicine). Doctoral programmes are achieved in about three years that follow the master studies.

LEGAL AGES

Prerogatives	Age
The age you have the possibility to run for President's office	35 <u>years</u>
The age you are an adult according to the law	18 <u>years</u>
The age you are allowed to buy such things as alcohols, cigarettes	18 <u>years</u>
The age you are allowed to vote	18 <u>years</u>
The age you are responsible for your actions and treated as an adult (serious crimes)	17 <u>years</u>
The age of consent (you are being classified as a person who is able to have sexual relations)	15 <u>years</u>
The age when you can get married	18 <u>years</u> (women 16 years of age in specific cases)
The age when you can work in Poland	18 <u>years</u> (seasonal job from 16, parents' permission needed)

Lubliniec is such a vivid place whose residents are amiable and hospitable.

Felix, Niemcy

***Trip to Cracow was one of the most remarkable and exciting experiences.
I got to know a lot about history and customs of Poland***

Berfin, Germany

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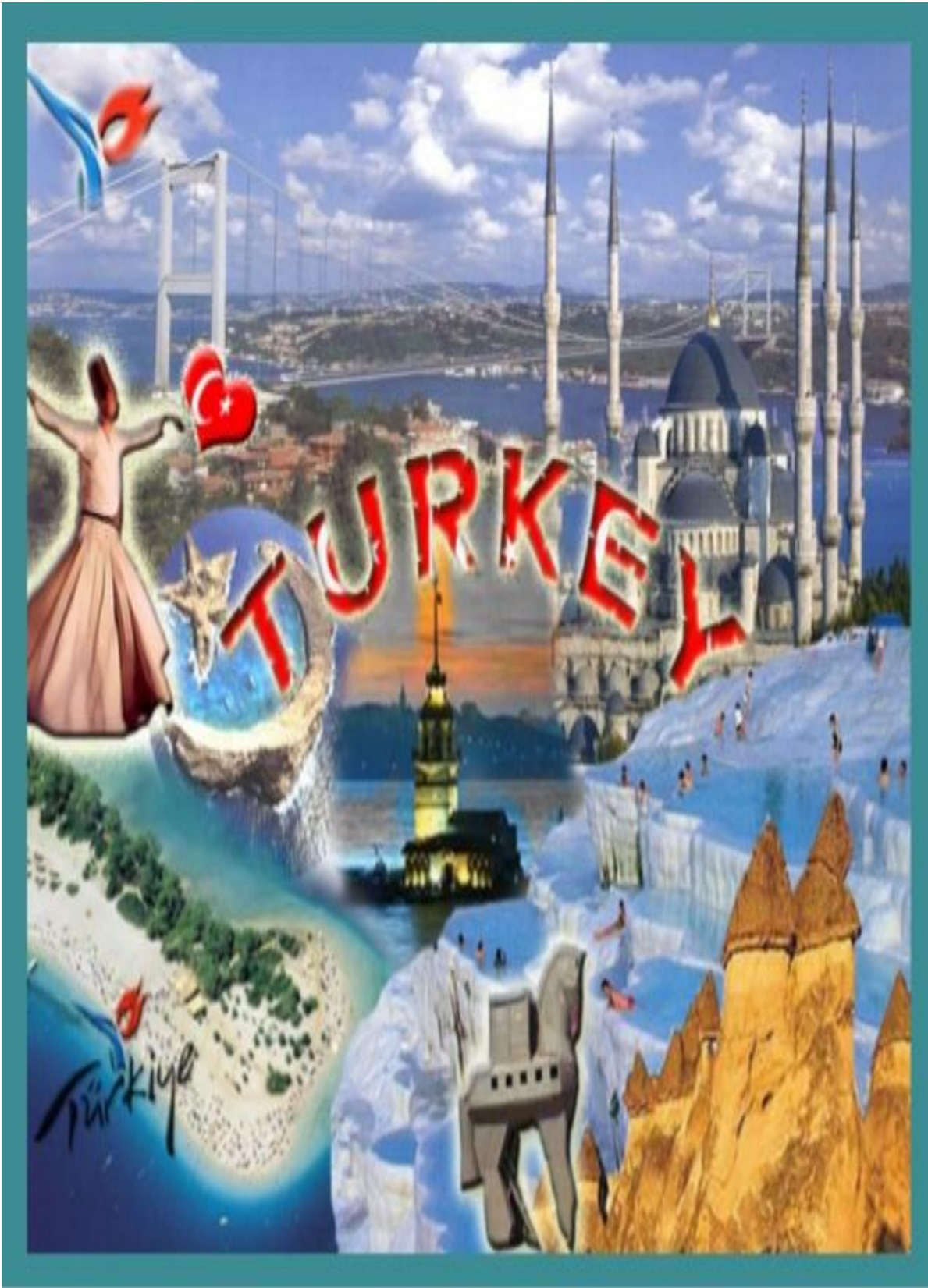
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TURKEY





Turkey is located in Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia. European (or Balkan) Turkey is relatively small compared to the Asian part, the Anatolian Plateau, which is a large peninsula.

The red on the **Turkish flag** symbolises the blood of the soldiers that died in battle. As for the Star and Crescent, the star and crescent was associated as the symbol of Islam
MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK is the founder of Turkish Republic.

One of the most iconic figures of the early 20th century, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is remembered as the leader who emerged from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire to establish Turkey as a sovereign republic. As president, his contributions to the development of a modern, secular Turkey.



TURKISH FLAG



ANKARA is the capital city of **Turkey.**

Our President is **Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN.**





Population of Turkey is 80 million. 99 Percent of our population is Muslim, others are Christian and Jewish. Turkey is located on Europe and Asia.

We use Turkish liras as currency. 1 Euro equals 6.1 Turkish Liras. THE TOTAL AREA OF Turkey is 780,580 sq. km (301,382 square miles) with a total coastline of 8,430 km (5,238 miles) Turkey is a republican parliamentary

democracy. Turkey is the only country with a Muslim majority population (99.8%) that operates under a secular constitution and a democratic government.



There are 7 regions in Turkey.

1. Marmara Region
2. Aegean Region
3. Mediterranean Region
4. Central Anatolia Region
5. Black sea Region
6. Eastern Anatolia Region
7. South Eastern Anatolia Region

MARMARA REGION

Istanbul is the most crowded city in Turkey. It's well-known all over the world.

In İstanbul, there are lots of historical places to see.

Blue Mosque, Galata Tower, Hagia Sophia Museum and Maiden's tower are in Istanbul.



AEGEAN REGION

We are living in this region.



Clock Tower



Historical Elevator

Clock tower, historical elevator, Ephesus Antique city and the House of Virgin Mary are in Izmir.



Ephesus Antique City



House of Virgin Mary

This enclosure for archaeological remains at Ephesus elegantly reconciles historic conservation with accessibility for visitors. The site of a succession of great ancient civilizations, Ephesus, on the south-west coast of modern Turkey, embodied a peculiarly fertile synthesis of architecture and culture. In 356BC the Greeks built the Artemesium (a colossal Ionic temple dedicated to Artemis the fertility goddess) which was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. During the 2nd century BC, Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the eastern Roman Empire, famous for its Artemesium, the Library of Celsus and its medical school.

Quoted from Catherine Slessor's Housing History. The House of Virgin Mary is visited by especially Christians. Every year on August 15th a ceremony is organized to commemorate Mary's Assumption.



Pamukkale Travertines are in Denizli.

Pamukkale in Aegean Turkey is also called the "Cotton Castle", because of the white, cottony appearance of the mineral bath spas that abound the province, which is rich in calcium. Known as a "spa town" since the Roman era, tourists travel to Pamukkale to relax in warm, soothing and therapeutic waters in the myriad spas.

MEDITARRANEAN REGION

ANTALYA is famous for summer holidays.



Antalya is famous for its tourist attractions and hotels. Aspendos Antique Theater ,Olympos Antique city and Düden Waterfall are worth seeing.

THE CENTRAL ANATOLIA REGION

Our capital city, ANKARA is in this region



ANITKABİR



Turkish Grand National Assembly

National Assembly and Anitkabir ,the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal ATATURK are in Ankara



Fairy chimnies in Cappadocia



Balloons over the valley

Black Sea Region

It is in the north part of Turkey.



Sumela Monastery is very historical and interesting Construction.
The colourful and impressive scenery can be seen from the Monastery.

Eastern Anatolia Region



AĞRI is the highest Mountain of Turkey

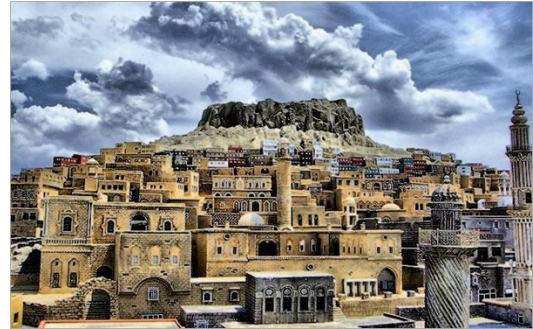


VAN is the largest Lake of Turkey

Southeastern Anatolia Region



The giant sculptures and tumulus on Nemrut Mountain belongs to Commagene Civilization



Mardin houses

Nemrut Mountain in Adıyaman was declared as a world Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. Mardin is Famous for its historical houses, they are very interesting.



Fish Lake is in Şanlıurfa. The fish in the lake aren't eaten because it's believed to be blessed fish.



GAZIANTEP has been added to the list in the Gastronomy category of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network



GAZIANTEP ZEUGMA MOSAIC MUSEUM is one of the most important museums in the world.

Agriculture in Turkey



Grape



Cherry



Olive



Fig



Cotton

In Turkey almost in every region agriculture is common, especially in Aegean Region. You can see grape, olive , cherry, fig and cotton.



Tangerine and Orange

And in south of Turkey mostly banana , oranges and tangerine are grown



Banana



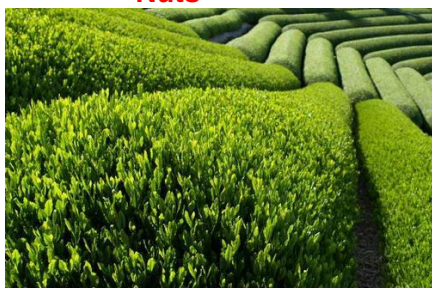
Nuts



Chestnut



Cherry Laurel



In north of Turkey tea, nut, cherry laurel and chestnut are grown.

Tea

Tourism

Summer Tourism



Çeşme
Kuşadası
Muğla
Bodrum
Antalya
Alanya



Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean regions have got so much importance for summer tourism. Cesme, Kusadası, Bodrum, Antalya, Alanya and Mugla are so famous for their beaches and pure sea.

Winter Tourism



Our country is well-known for winter tourism. Uludag, Palandoken and Erciyes are skiing centres

İstanbul attracts tourists in many occasions such as culture, religion and history.



Istanbul is one of the most visited and important places in the world, a central hub connecting Asia and Europe, blending the past and the future, bringing together cultures and people from all over the World.

Dishes in Turkey



Sarma



Manti



Kebap



Lahmacun



Döner



Hamsi Buğlama

Turkish cuisine has got various kinds of meals.

Our most famous dishes are sarma, mantı, kebab, lahmacun, döner, hamsi buğlama etc.

Desserts



Baklava



Tulumba



Lokum

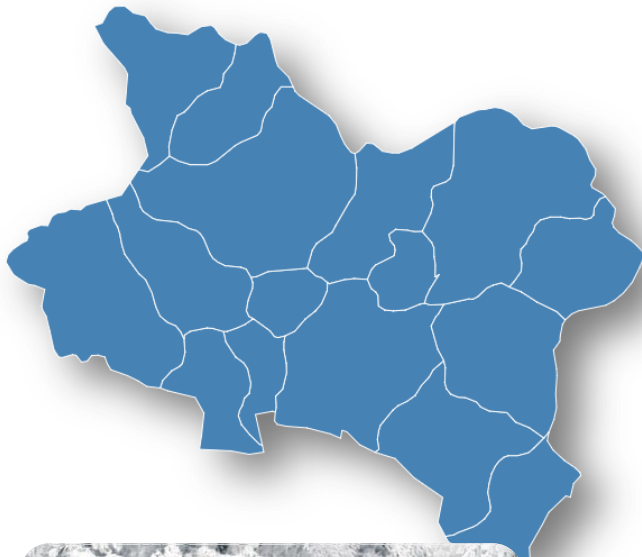
Baklava is our most traditional dessert. Also, Tulumba, Turkish delight are so delicious.

Turkish Coffee

Our traditional drink is Turkish coffee. we generally drink it after lunch or dinner.



MANİSA



OUR HOMETOWN

It is in the west side of Turkey and in the Aegean Region Manisa is not by the sea. It is so close to İzmir.

Population of Manisa:1.400.000

How do the people earn their life?

- Working at a factory
- Working in the field
- Working for service of industry

SPİL MOUNTAIN

Manisa is located in foots of Spil Mountain.These are the wild horses

that live in Spil mountain. There are about 2000 horses in the mountain.



CELAL BAYAR UNIVERSTIY



There is a university in the city center. There are lots of departments in the university. Students from different cities who pass the university exam, can have an education in these departments.

Tulips



We grow Tulip and plant them in the parks. You can see Tulip in every part of city. Manisa municipality uses Tulip as the symbol of Manisa.



Importance of Manisa in Ottoman Empire Times

Manisa is known as the sultans city. Because some sultans spent their childhood there and they were trained here to be a Sultan.



(Fatih Sultan Mehmet)



(Kanuni Sultan Süleyman)



Historical places of Manisa



SARDIS

It was the capital of Lydian

“A golden coin from Lydian age”



KULADOKYA- Kula has volcanic origin and geological structure



KULA VOLCANOES and GEOPARK



KULA HOUSES - Kula is also famous for its historical houses



MESİR PASTE

In Ottoman Empire, Mesir Paste was used to heal people. Since then, it has become a tradition in Manisa. It consists of 41 kinds of spices. Mesir Festival about it is held every year.



Traditional Dishes in Manisa



Manisa Kebab



Kula Stew

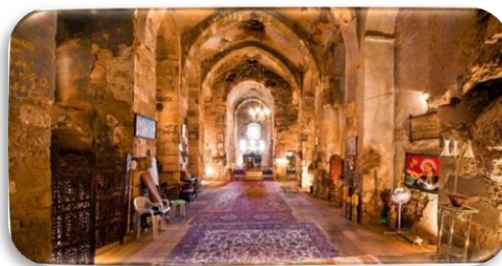


Bohca Kebab

Manisa kebab is the most famous food in Manisa. Also Bohça kebab and Kula stew are delicious meals to eat.

HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARY

[House of Virgin Mary](#) is located on the top of the "Bulbul" mountain 9 km ahead of [Ephesus](#), the shrine of Virgin Mary enjoys a marvelous atmosphere hidden in the green. It is the place where Mary may have spent her last days. Indeed, she may have come in the area together with Saint John, who spent several years in the area to spread Christianity. Mary preferred this remote place rather than living in crowded place. Paul VI was the first pope to visit this place in the 1960's. Later, in the 1980's, during his visit, Pope John-Paul II declared the Shrine of Virgin Mary has a pilgrimage place for Christians. It is also visited by Muslims who recognize Mary as the mother of one of their prophets. Every year, on August 15th a ceremony is organized to commemorate Mary's Assumption.



FOÇA

[Foça](#) is a cute little town on the [Aegean Sea](#), 70 kilometers (some 40 miles) north of [Izmir](#). It's population is around 36 thousand people but in the summer time it goes up to 70 thousand with local and foreign holiday makers who prefer this area for its natural beauties, crystal clear water, small coves, and the [climate](#). Some of Foça's bays are rewarded with the Blue Flag, securing the clean waters of an area in the [Mediterranean](#), these are; 1st Mersinaki Cove (Samata Beach), 2nd Mersinaki Cove (Club Phokaia Hotel), 4th Mersinaki Cove (Hanedan Hotel), 3rd Mersinaki Cove (ex-Club Med), Yeni Foça Canak cove (Pollen Hotel). The town has many traditional stone houses which some of them have been used as [boutique hotels](#). Foça is also famous for its [Mediterranean Seals](#) (*Monachus monachus*), which are under preservation. Actually the city took its name from the [seals](#).



EDUCATION SYSTEM IN TURKEY



Turkish education system is under the supervision and control of the state, namely the Ministry of National Education.

According to the Constitution of Turkish Republic, everyone has the right to receive education. Education is compulsory from ages 6 to 14 and free in state schools. The country's primary schools currently have a 98 percent participation rate.

The academic year in Turkish generally begins in the mid-September or early October and continues to May or early June. There is also a two-week winter break in February.

In our country, education from Primary school to the end of high school is compulsory.

All the children have to attend the classes especially in primary school.

In case of noncontinuance, families have to pay fine.



TYPES OF SCHOOL

- **STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL**
it is free to study at this school.
- **FOUNDATION SCHOOL**
an educational institution with better facilities than state schools.
It serves on a foundation.
- **PRIVATE SCHOOL**
school with a certain fee.

Pre-School Education: This education is an optional kindergarten education. It continues until at the age of 6. They play with peers in the class by their teacher's leading and learn basic abilities for primary school. The children wear casual clothes in the classes.



Primary School Education: This education is compulsory and basic education, It includes 6-14 years of age.

They learn alphabeth, how to write and read, basic mathematics, science, history, etc. Also they have to wear school uniform at school.



Secondary School Education: This education is about 4 years of high school. It is between age of 15-18. The students have education academically or vocationally. They wear uniform and come to school from 8 am to 4 pm.



College Education: This education is formed 4 years or 2 years of university. Some schools have an additional years of language study. First, the students have to enter a university exam and they go to the departments at the university according to their exam results and their interests. They generally go to the other cities and learn also how to live by their own. They wear casual clothes.

HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

Students have to enter the LGS exam to determine which school they will study.

The exam includes the questions in Maths, Science, Turkish Grammar, History and English.

TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOL

ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL

They have 4 years of regular high school education, additional hours for English. Math and Science lessons at these schools are sometimes taught in English. Lessons at some Anatolian high schools are taught in either German or French.

SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

These schools have a curriculum concentrated on natural sciences and mathematics.



These are special public schools for students who have exceptional aptitude in the sciences.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL

These schools have 4 year education. They train the students by vocational subjects such as ICT, Machine Technology, Accountancy, food and beverage services and etc. Students who finish this school have a technician degree. Also they are given a trading certificate. they can use to set their own business by this certificate.



PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There are lots of private schools from kindergarten to university in Turkey. They charge very high tuition fees and are very competitive.



FINE ARTS / SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

Students are taken with aptitude test at this school. Music, sculpture, drama and all kinds of sports are some departments at fine arts and sports high school.

Types of Higher Education Institutions

The university system in Turkey is governed by the Higher Educational Council.

State Universities:

Generally, undergraduate education takes 4 years at universities, but some fields take longer such as medicine (6 years), dentistry (5 years), and veterinary science (5 years).

Students need to pass a nationwide University Entrance Exam to enter a university.

The graduates of 4-year programs are awarded with the Bachelor's Degree .



Higher Vocational Schools :

They offer 2 years of study after high school and are very much like the community colleges in the USA. The only difference is that students cannot easily transfer to 4-year schools in the USA due to fewer places at the 4-year schools.

Two year graduates must take the national Vertical Transfer Test and have a high grade to be able to apply to 4-year schools. The graduates of 2-year programs are awarded with the Associate's or Pre-Bachelor's Degree.

Private or Foundation Universities : In Turkey, private foundations obtained the right in 1984 to establish and develop universities.

They were established with the fundamental aim of creating a centre of excellence in higher education and research.



Private universities take more active initiatives to form and to select international and global educational and research networks.

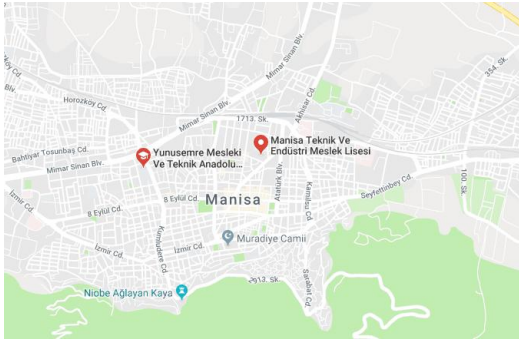
Job or Education opportunities after graduation from vocational school. What kind of jobs are they going to have?

-After graduation from vocational high school, the students can find jobs depending on their departments easily. They can work as a technician or an officer with their high school certificate.

-They have a trading licence after graduation so they can set up their own bussiness.



MANİSA VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ANATOLIAN HIGH SCHOOL



It is in the city centre.
There are 160 teachers and about 1700 students in our school.

We have 6 Departments



1.Information and Communication Technology

2.Electric and Electronic Technology

3.Installation Technology and Air-conditioning

4.Machine Technology

5.Metal Technology

6.Furniture and Interior Decoration Technology

The students have education for 4 years at school. They go to the factories, firms and other public institutions for apprenticeship at the last term of school. (12th grade)

Physical Structure of the School

3 BUILDINGS

- Block A is for the classes about school subjects
- Block C and D are workshops



SCHOOL HISTORY

Our school started teaching with Department of Grinding, Iron Works and Carpentry in 1944-1945 academic year.



SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS ON SPORTS

Our school has lots of success at sport activities. We have got a lot of medals from varies tournaments and races.





**Our school has participated to
many social activities and competitions
such as Fizy
(National Song Contest Among High Schools)**

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Now we will give information about facilities in our school. There are volleyball court, basketball and football pitches in our school garden. Also we have two canteens you can find lots of food and drinks in our canteens. Also you can play billiard in our school canteen. There is a library to read book and study.



AFTER GRADUATION

- Studying at the university
- Building up their own business
- Working at the factories in Manisa



Now we will inform you about process of our students after graduation. They can enter the university exam to become a technician or build their own business with their high school certificate. As Manisa is an industrial area, students can work at factories.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN TURKEY



23rd April Sovereignty and Children's Day

Many people in Turkey commemorate the first gathering of the Grand National Assembly (the Turkish Parliament), which took place on April 23,

1920, by attending local ceremonies or laying wreaths at monuments of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. The biggest ceremony takes place at the Atatürk Mausoleum in Ankara.



Because Atatürk dedicated the Turkish Republic to children, Turkish schoolchildren take seats in the Parliament for the day and symbolically govern the country. They elect a president who then addresses the country on national television. Children's festivals take place throughout the country. The state-run Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) brings children, aged eight to 14, from different countries around the world to Turkey. These children stay with Turkish families for a week and participate in children's festivals, which culminate in a gala-performance on April 23.



19th May Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day

Throughout the country on May 19 each year. Young Turkish athletes carry the Turkish flag from a Black Sea port to Ankara to commemorate Turkey's War of Independence (1919–1923).



Various sports events take place on May 19 throughout Turkey. Many people celebrate this day by watching athletes perform at their local stadiums or by participating in sports events that are open to the public, such as half-marathons. Many Turks also observe May 19 as

Atatürk's birthday. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, Atatürk used to say he was born on May 19 (referring to his political career). Many people lay wreaths to Atatürk's monuments and hang Turkish flags outside their windows.



30th August Victory Day

Military parades and ceremonies at monuments to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, are

some common ways to celebrate Victory Day in Turkey. Turkish flags often adorn shops, public offices and people's houses on this day.

Many people in Turkey celebrate Victory Day by attending military parades, which take place in many big cities throughout the country. Air forces celebrate the day with demonstration flights. The jets involved in such flights usually leave a red-and-white trail, symbolizing the Turkish flag.



29th October Republic Day

Many people in Turkey celebrate Republic Day on October 29 by attending performances and participating in traditional processions with flags and musical bands.



The Turkish Republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk proclaimed Republic Day as Turkey's most important holiday. Many people go to local stadiums on October 29 to watch performances dedicated to Republic Day in Turkey. Such performances usually consist of theater sketches, poetry readings and traditional Turkish dances. Many school children participate in school performances for parents and teachers. Parades may take place in some cities and

politicians may give public speeches on this day. Many people also lay wreaths to Atatürk's monuments or visit Atatürk's mausoleum in the country's capital, Ankara. In the evening of October 29, many cities have traditional processions with flags and musical bands to commemorate Republic Day in Turkey. The processions usually end with fireworks, which begin after dark.



RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS IN TURKEY

RAMADAN FEAST



Background

The Ramadan Feast is the first day of Shawwal, which is the 10th month of the Islamic calendar. Each month in the Islamic calendar begins with the first sighting of the new moon. As a result, the exact dates of the Ramadan Feast change every year, according to the Gregorian calendar. The Ramadan Feast usually occurs 10 days earlier than in the previous year, according to the Gregorian calendar. Celebrating the Ramadan Feast after a month of fasting is one of the earliest and most important traditions of Islam.



What Do People Do?

Many people wake up early on the first day of the Ramadan Feast. They put on their best clothes, called bayramlık, which they often buy specifically for the occasion, and have a large breakfast. This symbolizes the end of the fasting period, which many Muslims observe during the preceding month of Ramadan.

The Ramadan Feast in countries such as Turkey is a time for families to get together and join in activities such as sharing special meals. The Ramadan Feast in Turkey is a time for visiting relatives and paying one's respect to older people. The Ramadan Feast has an alternative name in Turkey, the Sugar Feast (Şeker Bayramı), because people treat their guests to sweets and traditional desserts "baklava" during the festival. It is customary to visit one's relatives, especially older ones, and kiss their hand as a sign of respect. Children may go door-to-door, kissing hands of the grown-ups and receiving sweets and small amounts of money in return.



SACRIFICE FEAST

Background

The Sacrifice Feast traditions in Turkey include sacrificing an animal in a special ritual, visiting relatives and helping the poor.

The Sacrifice Feast is one of the oldest Islamic holidays in Turkey. It commemorates the story about Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) who showed obedience to God by agreeing to sacrifice his son. God then sent him a ram to be sacrificed instead. The Sacrifice Feast comes about 70 days after the Ramadan Feast.



What Do People Do?

Traditionally, on the first day of the Sacrifice Feast in Turkey, men of each family go to a mosque for a special morning prayer. Then the sacrifice ritual begins. In some regions in Turkey, people paint the sacrificial animal with henna and adorn it with ribbons. The butcher reads a prayer before

slaughtering the animal. Families share about two-thirds of the animal's meat with relatives and neighbours, and they traditionally give about one-third to the poor.



In recent years, some Turkish people started making donations to charity organizations instead of sacrificing animals. Many people in Turkey take special care to help the poor during the Sacrifice Feast.



SOCIAL LIFE

Free Time Activities

- **Courses**
- **Sports activities**
- **Recreational Activities**
- **Part time job**

Young people do many kinds of free time activities in Turkey. These include courses, sports activities, recreational activities and working at a part-time job.



ICT Courses



Pottery



Theatre



Musical Instrument



Language Course



Art

Teenagers can join various courses from the institutions which are for young people. Some courses are ICT, theatre, art, pottery, musical instrument and language courses.

Teenagers can join both sports courses and activities



Basketball



Table Tennis



Volleyball



Swimming



Karate, kickbox and muay-thai



Trekking



Football

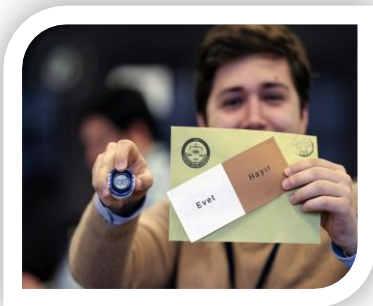


Riding Bicycle

LEGAL AGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TURKEY



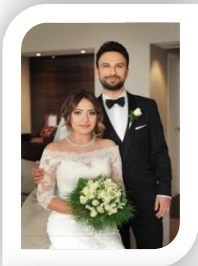
Age 18 is the legal age in Turkey.



In Turkey, you must be 18 years old or older to vote, you can also take part in political parties and also be a member within them.



Both males and females can get a drive license at the age of 18. To get driver license, you have to pass a written exam and practise exam.



In Turkey, if you want to marry, you have to be at least 18. Most of the young people get married between 20-30 ages.



Young people can't have an account at a bank by own before 18. Youngs can't have an account at a bank by own before 18 and they can't apply for passport by own before 18, they have to go to police station with their family about passport procedure.



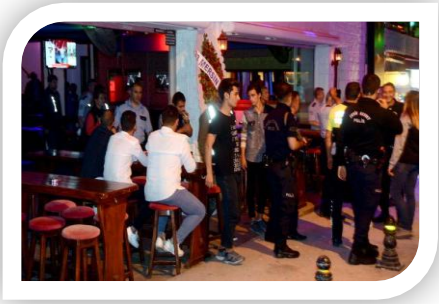
The age of military service is 20.



In Turkey, if you are healthy and male, you have to do your military service at the age of 20 but you can delay it until 29 because of education.



In Turkey, when you are at the age of 18, you can buy and drink alcohol and you are not allowed to enter the pubs under the age of 18. If you disturb someone when you are drunk, Turkish state punishes you.



Health Service in Turkey



In Turkey, you can be treated both in state and private hospitals. You pay the state for your health insurance and Turkish state meet your expenses. If you are under 18 or university student, you don't pay for your health service.

Punishment in Turkey



In Turkey, when you are 18, your offences are punished either by imprisonment or by a fine depending on the crime.

Punishments at the age of 12 and under 12



The children, at the age of 12 or under 12 cannot be punished but if they commit a crime, Turkish State takes some measurements such as sending them to a correction house.

Punishment at the age of 12-18



Between the age of 12 and 18, children can be punished but whatever they commit a crime, they cannot be sentenced more than 12 years. And they can go on their education life in the prison.



Associations in Turkey

Young people can join various associations at the age of 18. For example, Education Associations, Nature and first aid etc.



PHOTOS FROM THE STUDENTS STAY IN POLAND

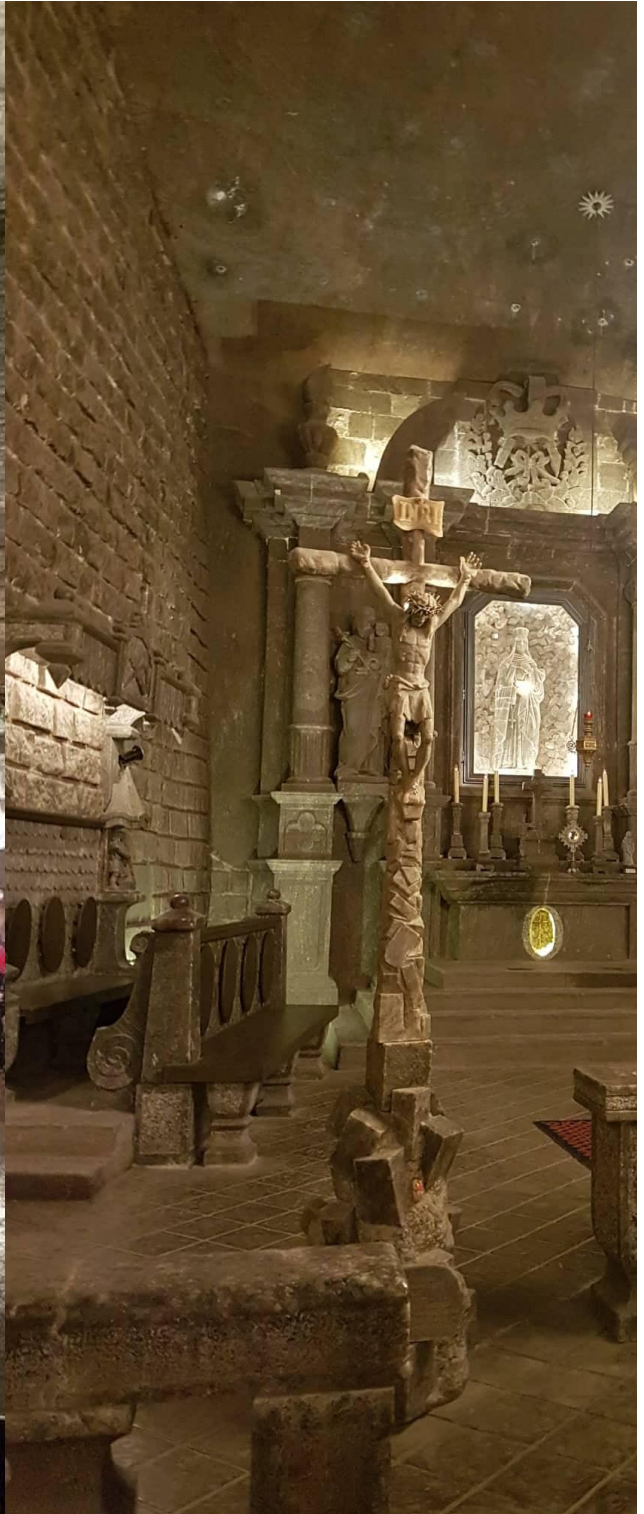














PHOTOS FROM THE STUDENTS STAY IN GERMANY

















PHOTOS FROM THE STUDENTS STAY IN ICELAND



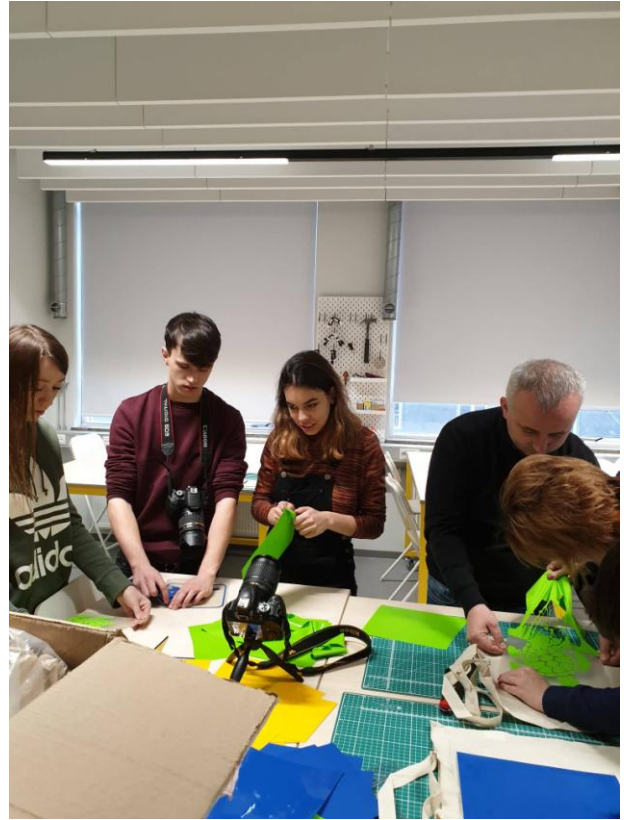












PHOTOS FROM THE TEACHERS MEETING IN TURKEY





